

In this issue:

All School



Enemy Swim Day School

Let Our Voices be Heard

"Naunkih' Unpi"

Toka Nuwan Wayawa Tipi - Enemy Swim Day School

Monday, June 15th, 2026

www.esds.us

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FACE Graduation



Congratulations to the FACE graduates!! These four girls have learned so much!
It's been a great year and they're ready to move on to Kindergarten.



FACE Adult Ed. - Year End Updates

As another successful school year comes to a close, we want to take a moment to celebrate the accomplishments, experiences, and opportunities our Adult Education students have shared throughout the year.

Our most recent cultural activity at the end of the school year was creating rawhide belts. Students enjoyed learning the traditional process while expressing their creativity and connecting with cultural teachings and hands-on learning experiences. Activities like these continue to strengthen our program by bringing culture, learning, and community together.

Our students have also shown incredible dedication and teamwork through fundraising efforts all school year long. Thanks to their hard work, the group is preparing for an exciting 5-day trip to Wisconsin Dells this summer! During the trip, students will enjoy waterparks, local attractions, and tourist activities while making lasting memories together. This trip is a wonderful reward for all of the effort and commitment they have shown throughout the year.

We would also like to recognize one of our outstanding students for her academic achievement this year. Sarita Eastman successfully completed her college classes and earned a place on the President's List both semesters this school year, an honor that reflects her determination, hard work, and perseverance. We are extremely proud of her accomplishments and the example she sets for others in our program.

In addition, we are excited to announce that our Adult Education program has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation to support family literacy efforts. These funds will help educators enhance instruction and create new opportunities that empower students and families to reach their full potential. We are grateful for this support and look forward to expanding the impact of our program in the coming year. Thank you to all of our students, staff, families, and community members for supporting Adult Education. We are proud of everything accomplished this year and look forward to another successful year ahead! - Erica Contreras

As another wonderful school year comes to a close, we want to thank all of our families for allowing us to be part of your journey this year. We are so proud of the growth, learning, and special memories we shared together through our Family Enrichment Home Visiting Program.

To celebrate the end of the year, families enjoyed a fun-filled field trip to Storybook Land! It was a day full of laughter, adventure, and family time as children explored the attractions, enjoyed the rides, and created lasting memories together. We are grateful to everyone who joined us and helped make the trip such a success.

Although our regular program year is ending for the summer, our work continues. Throughout the summer months, we will be recruiting and enrolling new families for the upcoming program year. We are excited to welcome new participants and continue supporting families in our community through home visits, learning activities, parent support, and early childhood enrichment opportunities.

If you know a family who may benefit from our program, please encourage them to reach out for more information. New openings will be available this summer. We hope all of our families have a safe, relaxing, and joyful summer. We look forward to seeing everyone again soon. - Rhesha Renville

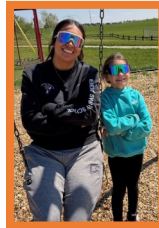
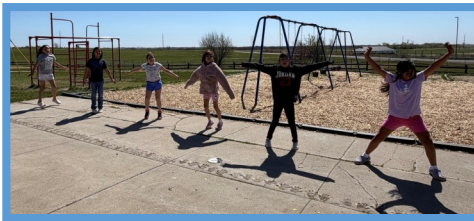


Physical Education News

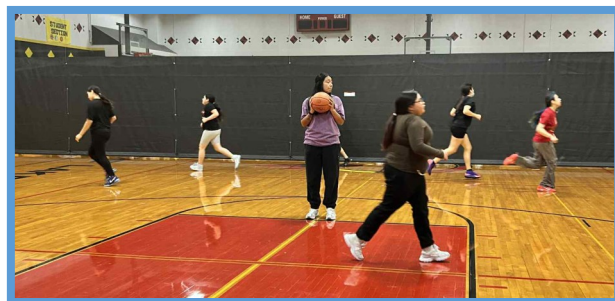
This year **Kindergarten** students learned important movement skills such as running, jumping, balancing, throwing, and catching through fun games and activities. They practiced listening, following directions, and good sportsmanship while building confidence and enjoying physical activity. Students showed great growth in coordination, participation, and positive social skills throughout the year.



Students in **1st-4th Grade** developed important physical skills through a variety of games, exercises, and team activities. They improved in teamwork and sportsmanship while learning the value of staying active and healthy. Students practiced working together, and showing respect for others, while building their confidence in physical activity.



Throughout the year students in **5th-8th Grade** strengthened their fitness, teamwork, and sports skills through a variety of individual and group activities. They worked on responsibility, and positive sportsmanship while learning the importance of regular physical activity. Students demonstrated growth in leadership, cooperation, and participation, and continued building confidence through challenges and team experiences.



Learning Lab

Ms. Faith's Year End Review

As the 2025–2026 school year comes to a close, I am proud to reflect on the significant growth and dedication shown by my 2nd through 6th grade students in both reading and math. Working in small groups allowed me to provide more individualized instruction, address specific learning needs, and recognize each student's unique progress.

In Reading, we used the SIPPS program (Systematic Instruction in Phonological Awareness, Phonics, and Sight Words) as the foundation of our instruction. This structured approach helped students develop essential decoding skills and strengthen their sight word recognition. It was especially rewarding to see students who began the year with limited decoding abilities grow into more confident and independent readers.

In Math, our small-group sessions focused on addition and subtraction using manipulatives. These hands-on tools made learning more engaging and enjoyable for my students while helping them develop a better understanding of key concepts. This year, we also incorporated task baskets as part of our instruction. Task baskets are a structured learning activity system in which students complete independent or guided tasks using labeled baskets or bins. Each basket contains a specific activity designed to strengthen and reinforce math skills. By incorporating hands-on activities, math games, and visual models, my students were able to engage in learning in ways that made math more accessible, meaningful, and enjoyable.

Throughout the year, I observed significant growth not only in academics but also in each student's perseverance and willingness to embrace challenges. The small-group setting created a safe and supportive environment where students felt confident asking questions, exploring new strategies, and learning at their own pace.

It has been a pleasure working with such bright, dedicated, and resilient students this year. I am very proud of the progress they have made, grateful to have been part of their learning journey, and appreciative of all that has been accomplished. I look forward to seeing their continued success in the year ahead. Wishing everyone a safe, restful, and enjoyable summer!

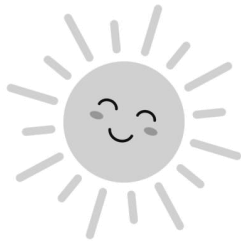


Mrs. Fish's Year in Review

This school year, I had the opportunity to work with students on IEPs in Kindergarten, 2nd, 6th, and 8th grade. Supporting students across multiple grade levels allowed me to better understand the unique academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs that students experience at different stages of development. I also gained valuable experience in progress monitoring, adapting instruction, building positive relationships, and encouraging student independence and confidence. Working with these students has strengthened my skills as an educator and reinforced the importance of patience, flexibility, teamwork, and celebrating student growth in all forms.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable summer!

Learning Lab



Ms. Rhea's Year in Review

As this school year comes to a close, I would like to take a moment to reflect on how meaningful my journey in the Learning Lab has been. Watching my students grow academically and personally has been one of the most rewarding experiences for me as an educator. One of the highlights of this year was seeing many students develop not only confidence in math, but also a genuine enjoyment of learning it. Their progress, perseverance, and enthusiasm made every day worthwhile.

Beyond academics, my students have also taught me important lessons about life, patience, resilience, and the true heart of teaching. Every shared moment of learning, discovery, and growth has been a gift that I will always treasure. Their unique personalities and determination continually reminded me why I chose this profession.

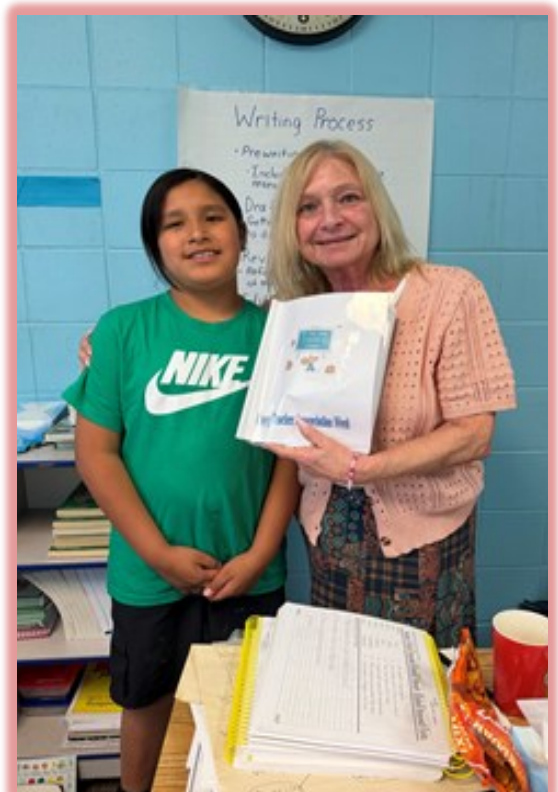
As I reflect on my 3 years at ESDS, I am filled with gratitude for all the learning opportunities I have received through trainings, seminars, and daily experiences. I am especially thankful for my colleagues, whose kindness, guidance, and willingness to help have supported me throughout my journey. Being part of such a supportive school community has meant so much to me, and I truly could not ask for more. Thank you ESDS!

Ms. Carney's Year End Thoughts

Another Year has come and gone...

This year was incredibly rewarding for me as an instructor. All of the students I had the pleasure and responsibility to provide literacy instruction for, increased or maintained their end of the year scores in reading.

Students that have difficulty learning to read may have difficulties in a variety of literary areas. They may not have mastered letter/sound recognition. They may have difficulty pronouncing sounds when blending sounds. They may have difficulty identifying age-appropriate vocabulary. If we figure out the area of difficulty, we can work to correct it. When we find the best way to teach a student, they begin to believe they CAN read! So, let's keep working together to develop readers in our school community with our parents as partners.



Learning Lab

Ms. Jacky's Year End Review

As we wrap up the school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on what a meaningful and rewarding year it has been in the Learning Lab. I couldn't be prouder of the growth I've seen in my students.

Our class has made wonderful progress, especially our Kindergarten and Second Grade students. They have shown strong improvement in both reading and math, building skills and confidence throughout the year. It has been exciting to watch them develop as learners and take pride in their achievements.

In addition to their academic growth, students have also been learning the Dakota language in our classroom. They have done an amazing job not only learning new words and phrases, but also translating and using the language with confidence. This has been a very special part of our learning experience together.

I am also proud of how well students have improved in their transitions and daily routines. They have become more independent, responsible, and respectful of our classroom expectations, which has helped create a positive and supportive learning environment.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. It has truly been a joy working with your children and watching them grow. I wish all of our students and families a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable summer break. For those continuing to summer school, I know you will keep learning and thriving!



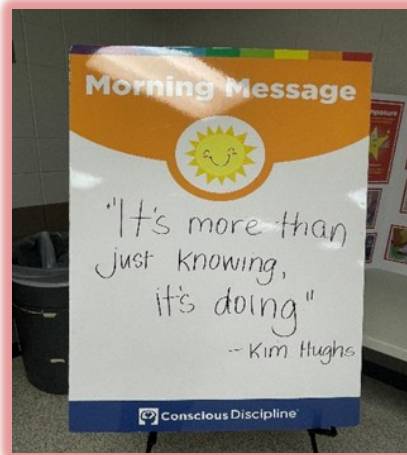
Mr. Lauterhahn's Year End Summary

This year was enjoyable, memorable, and fulfilling. I had the unique opportunity to work with 2 Kindergarten students with Reading and Writing. They were a real delight and their innocence and energy was such a great way to start each day. It was great to see how much pride and excitement they got from learning their letters and sounds. I also worked with two 6th Graders in Reading and Writing for the second year in a row. These students made great progress and we really strengthened our commitment to learning together. I worked with an 8th grader who is persistent and driven to improve his Reading and Writing skills. For Math I worked with 2 students for the second year in a row and the students are coming along nicely in their accumulation of foundational Math skills. I rounded out each day working with Social Skills with a few students and we had lots of fun and made good memories. Overall it was a great year!

Learning Lab

Randy's End of Year Summary

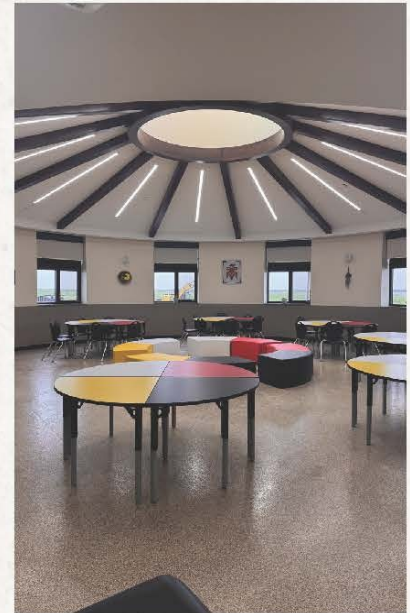
School Year 2025-2026 has been challenging as well as fruitful and meaningful. As a neophyte teacher, I was sent to Conscious Discipline training at the beginning of the school year. It is used as a foundational tool for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. This helped me to engage with my students in a patient and positive way. At the start of the school year, I was assigned to work with the 1st Grade and 6th Grade classes. I am a co-teacher for the 1st Grade homeroom and for math and reading interventions. It was fun to be with these younger students, but sometimes they will test your patience. Even so, their enthusiasm and curiosity made the experience rewarding.



It was a little different to work with 6th grade. They are not little kids anymore yet they have a lot of energy. You need to be firm while being understanding and patient. While being a push-in teacher, I was also pulling out students as well. There were times when they would need just need someone to be with them and I got to be that person. All of these different experiences throughout the school year taught me how to become an effective educator. I learned how to be flexible while keeping a positive attitude from Conscious Discipline and that really helped me in engaging with these unique students that I worked with.

Pidamaya!

-RANDY



Haŋ Mitakuyepi,

As the school year comes to a close, we want to celebrate the growth, effort, and learning our students have shown in Dakota class. This year, students continued building their Dakota language skills through greetings, introductions, songs, classroom phrases, kinship terms, numbers, colors, animals, and everyday conversation. More than anything, they continued learning that Dakota language is not just a subject in school. It is part of who we are, where we come from, and how we stay connected to our relatives, our homelands, and our way of life. This year also brought meaningful learning opportunities for our Dakota language teachers.

Our teachers had the opportunity to travel to New Zealand and Hawai'i to learn from Indigenous immersion schools and language revitalization programs. These visits gave us a chance to see how other Indigenous communities are bringing their languages back through schools, families, culture, and community commitment.

What our teachers brought back reminds us that language revitalization takes all of us. It takes students willing to try, teachers willing to keep learning, families willing to support the language at home, and a community that believes our children deserve to hear, speak, and carry Dakota into the future.

Throughout the year, students practiced speaking, listening, responding, and participating in Dakota each week. We are proud of the confidence many students gained, especially as they became more willing to speak out loud, try new words, and support one another in learning.

Learning Dakota takes courage. Every time a student says a Dakota word, sings a song, answers a question, or tries again after making a mistake, they are helping keep our language alive.

As we head into summer, we encourage families to continue using Dakota words at home when possible. Even small moments matter. A greeting, a thank you, a color, a number, or a song can help students remember that Dakota belongs in everyday life.

Wopida taŋka eciciyapi to our students, families, staff, and community for supporting Dakota language learning this year. We are proud of our students and excited to continue growing together.

MRS. AKER'S KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER



This amazing Kindergarten class has had a fantastic year! They are excellent students and so much fun, too. This picture was taken on Shades Day! Their futures are so bright they will have to wear shades! The Kindergarten class would like to wish everyone a wonderful summer vacation!

Taku Unkospekte he?

What are we learning?

Literacy—The Kindergarten class has accomplished so much in Literacy this school year. Their reading skills have grown tremendously as they have put all their skills together to become fantastic Kindergarten readers. The students completed the Spring NWEA Literacy assessments this month too. The assessments also show that the students have made tremendous growth since the beginning of the school year. I am extremely proud of them!

Math—Our Kindergarten class has made great progress in Math this year as well. We began the year learning the numbers zero to five and counting to five. Now they are counting and writing numbers well past 100! They have also learned so many other skills such as adding and subtracting, comparing numbers, place value, measurement, reading graphs, and skip counting. Their accomplishments have been absolutely amazing! They will be excellent First Graders!

Ms. Schumacher's Kindergarten Newsletter

The Kindergarten classes got to end their school year with a field trip to a local farm. The students got to see a variety of animals, including chicks, chickens, goats, cows, calves, horses, and a rabbit. They were also able to take turns picking eggs from the chicken coop, which was a fun experience for everyone. Afterwards the Kindergarteners got to spend the afternoon at a park and the day ended with ice cream from The Purple Cow. It was a new experience for some, and overall a really fun day that we will all remember!

Our class learned many new things this school year. We ended the year with stronger math skills, new foundational reading concepts, and so much more. It was a wonderful experience to watch each of these students grow and change throughout the year. This was my first year teaching Kindergarten and I learned many new things from this amazing group of students. Although I am sad it has come to an end, I am so excited to see everything these learners will accomplish in First Grade!

I hope everyone has a fantastic summer! -Ms. Schumacher





Wanji (Grade 1)

Mrs. Thuringer's Class



With a field trip, end of year tests, and days packed with learning activities, the final month of the school year was busy for the first graders! On May 12 we enjoyed a fun field trip to Bramble Park Zoo in Watertown. Students learned about a lot of different animals and were even given the opportunity to pet a snake, a chinchilla, a ferret, and a pancake tortoise. It was a memorable day for everyone!

As we finished up the school year, the first graders honed their reading abilities, writing skills, and math understandings with daily activities that brought them to proficiency. These bright, caring, and kind students have shown us that they are ready for second grade! They are wonderful people and I have loved being their first-grade teacher!

Have a happy and safe summer! See you in August---Mrs. Thuringer

Suggestions for Summer Enrichment:

1. **Read daily with your child.** This is probably the most important activity you can do! Reading together strengthens bonds with your child. Words and concepts in books may not come up in everyday conversation and reading leads to increased vocabulary and understandings and also grows the imagination.
2. **Run, Jump, and Play!** Have fun together! Exercise improves a child's memory, ability to learn, and concentration.
3. **Visit the library!** Check out books together. Also, consider joining the special programs that students can participate in.
4. **Visit these free learning sites:**
 - National Geographic for Kids: kids.nationalgeographic.com
 - ABC YA: abcya.com
 - Fun Brain: funbrain.com
 - Star Fall: starfall.com
 - PBS Kids: pbs.org
 - Storyline Online: storylineonline.net
 - Into the Book: reading.ecb.org





Hello Summer



What a Year It's Been in 2nd Grade! 🌟

Dear Families,

As we wrap up this school year, I want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible growth and progress our class has made. It has been an absolute joy to watch each student become more confident, capable, and curious. Whether it was mastering tricky math problems, diving into new books, or learning how to be kind and helpful classmates, every child has made important strides—and I couldn't be prouder!

We've laughed, learned, explored, and worked hard together, and I'm so grateful to have shared this special year with such an amazing group of students.

As we head into summer, I encourage your child to keep exploring, reading, asking questions, and enjoying all the little moments that make summer fun. Rest, play, and make memories—but also stay curious!

I can't wait to see everyone return refreshed, excited, and ready to learn even more in 3rd grade!

Thank you for all your support this year. Have a safe and wonderful summer!

With appreciation,

Mr. Ramos

2nd Grade Teacher – Enemy Swim Day School



★ Miss Byer's 3rd Grade ★ End of Year

NEWSLETTER

Year in Review

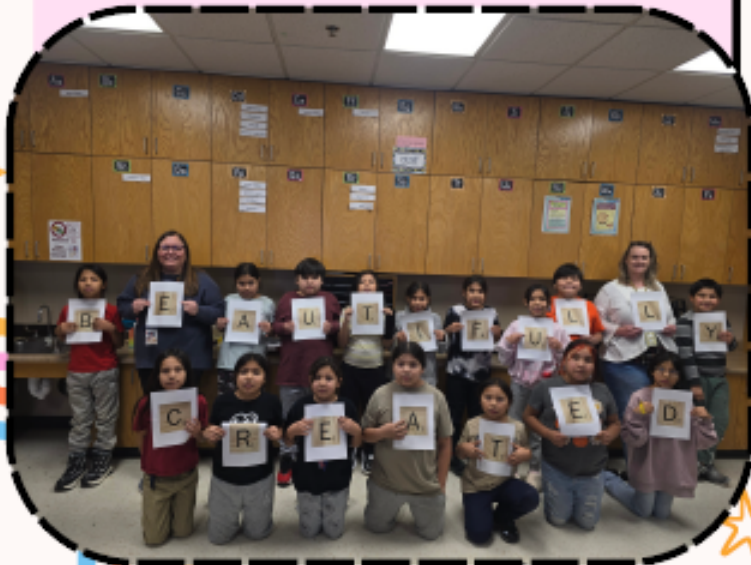
This school year has flown by!
I'm excited for summer but sad to see the students go.

3rd Grade End of the Year Field Trip—Bowling and Pizza at Buffalo Lanes

To finish out the year, we've been working hard on...

Math—multiplication and division fluency and telling time to the nearest minute

Literacy—answering questions to demonstrate understanding, fluency, and comprehension while reading
Because of Winn Dixie



End of Year Classroom Awards

Future Teacher - Azariah Appenay
Fantastic Friend - Laythan Barse
Awesome Athlete - Jesse Blue
Amazing Athlete - Maverick Blue Dog
Spunky Spirit - Jaxon Brant
Most Curious - Lucas DuMarce
Always on Time - Wicahpi Gill
Ray of Sunshine - Scottee Fayant
Great Leader - Memphis Hopkins
Fantastic Friend - Brayleigh Keeble
Great Listener - Landreya Little Bird
Math Master - John Long
Most Inquisitive - Towin Rencountre
Homework Hero - Lucious Renville
Awesome Artist - Jaceon Shepherd
Super Reader - Luna Small
Excellent Effort - Wasuska White
Stellar Student - Reyna Mendoza

What can my child do over the summer?

- Continue practicing multiplication flash cards for fluency
- Use the local library to check out books to read—ask your child questions about what they are reading
- Read a book to a younger sibling, cousin, or friend
- Write in a journal or diary
- Get outside and enjoy the sunshine!

Mr. Z.'s 4th Grade News

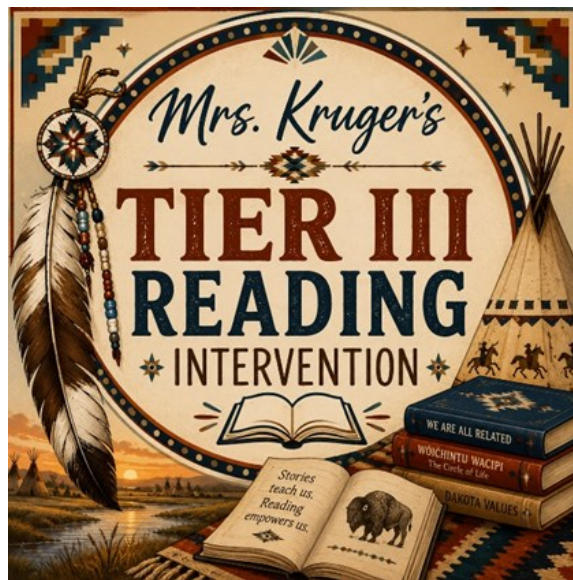
This year, our 4th graders have worked hard, grown in confidence, and made many awesome memories together. They showed kindness, curiosity, and perseverance as they learned new skills and took on new challenges throughout the year. The school year ended with a field trip to Allevery in Aberdeen. It was an exciting field trip and the kids had a ton of fun!

I hope everyone has a great summer!



SUMMER TIME





It has been a wonderful first year in my new position as Tier III Reading Interventionist. I have loved every minute of it. This is my sixth year at Enemy Swim Day School and my 21st year as an educator.

The past several years I served as a second grade teacher and then a fourth grade teacher.

As the Tier III Reading Interventionist, I assess all Kindergarten through third grade students using the AIMSweb Plus Assessment Platform three times each year. The assessment data is then used to identify students who are struggling in the areas of letter and sound recognition, phonics and phonemic awareness. Once student needs have been identified, they are then scheduled for 20-30 minutes of intensive intervention time with me 3-5 days per week in groups of one to three students. I utilize the UFLI Foundation curriculum, which is based on the science of reading. I progress monitor students weekly or bi-weekly on the skills that we are focusing on. The primary goal of this position is to strengthen students' reading skills to support greater success in the general education classroom. Additionally, the intervention generates valuable data to inform the potential need for further educational services.

The students that received Tier III support this year exceeded my expectations by making amazing growth on their AIMSweb reading assessments. Together, the students and I set goals, and the students track their growth and graph it weekly during progress monitoring. By working hard, staying focused, and reaching their goals, the students were able to earn incentives, which also proved to be successful.

I am excited that I will be providing extra reading support to students during summer school!!

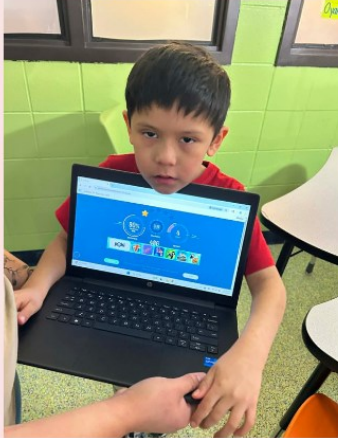




Computer Class



May 2026

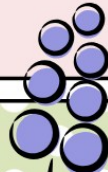


This school year in Computer Class, students in Kindergarten through 6th grade built important technology skills while having fun learning new programs and tools. Students practiced keyboarding and improved their typing speed and accuracy using typing programs. Younger students focused on learning correct finger placement and recognizing letters on the keyboard, while older students worked on increasing speed, accuracy, and confidence when typing.

Students also developed their mouse and trackpad skills by learning how to click, drag, scroll, and navigate safely and effectively on the computer. These activities helped improve coordination and prepared students to use technology independently in the classroom.

Throughout the year, students explored creativity through Canva projects. They designed posters, presentations, and other digital creations while learning about layout, design, colors, and digital citizenship. These projects encouraged creativity, problem-solving, and communication skills while giving students hands-on experience with real-world technology tools.

Overall, students made great progress in their computer skills and showed enthusiasm, creativity, and growth throughout the year.

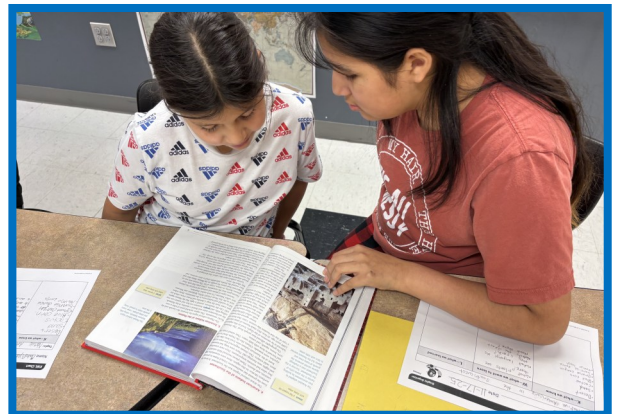


Middle School Social Studies

5th Grade—In 5th Social Studies, we finished up our unit on The Bill of Rights, discussing which Bill of Rights students thought needed to be improved, changed, or even added. During gimkit practice, the 5th grade is able to identify all 50 states simply by looking at the shape of the state. All of this is done almost completely without a map, which is impressive!

6th Grade—We've been working hard at understanding the influence and importance of various civilizations. We finished our unit on Ancient China by making timelines with paper and pictures. Students were put in groups to work together on sorting which event, based on the picture, went first and last. This is such an important social studies skill to have, and they've shown they're able to do so. We also took our unit exam as a means of finishing the unit on ancient China. As a class, they have the incentive of choosing a movie related to ancient China.

7th Grade—In 7th grade, we finished our unit on Latin America, ending with the land conflict in the Amazon Rainforest. We took the chapter test, with a quick Kahoot review game so these amazing 7th graders could practice their geography skills. Overall, I was impressed with the results and hard work from this class. We ended the year with a fun project where students had to research a country of their choice, convince me to travel there, and then defend why I (the teacher) should consider traveling to the country that they've researched. They were all very convincing!



Social Studies Enrichment Strategies

Throughout the summer, I would highly recommend students read at least one historical or social studies related book! Heading to the local library is a fun and free way to achieve this! Plus, your student could read while enjoying the summertime sun outside. If possible, simply traveling and visiting to different places within the region whether it be a historical sight, museum or a reenactment of some sort is also an enriching experience for students during the summertime. Lastly, and I'm a huge advocate for this, I encourage students to meet someone from a different country, state, continent or maybe someone whose second language is English. This exposure to our big beautiful world is crucial for students. Try a new food from another country – I recommend going to the Sanaa Café in Sioux Falls, it's a cozy middle eastern restaurant in downtown Sioux Falls.

Ms. DeVoss's Year in Review for Grades 5-7



5th Grade Reading: The 5th Graders had a busy year in reading! We worked on many skills. Some of the big ideas from this year were narrative plot lines, figurative language, different genre types, and dissecting informational texts. We ended the year reading two novels. The first was a historical fiction novel titled, "Esperanza Rising." The students enjoyed watching the main character, Esperanza, grow and mature as she was forced to leave her ranch in Mexico and start a new life with her mom in California. The final novel we read for the year was, "The Case of Windy Lake." The students enjoyed the mystery aspect of this novel. Some main themes addressed throughout this story were land conservation, respect for elders, and the importance of learning the history of your people and land. I am so proud of all the work the fifth graders put in this year in reading!

5th Grade Math: 5th Grade Math covers so many important foundational skills as students head into their middle school years. Some of the main skills covered this year include understanding place value with decimals, adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions and decimals, finding volume of 3D objects, and being introduced to the coordinate plane. The 5th graders made great gains this year in math, and I look forward to seeing where this takes them next year!

6th Grade Math: 6th Grade worked hard this year in math! They covered many skills including rates and ratios, surface area, reviewed decimal and fraction skills, and were introduced to the ideas of positive and negative integers as well as equivalent expressions. This class worked hard this year, but we also shared a lot of fun and laughter! I can't wait to see them again next year.

7th Grade Math: We had a great year in 7th Grade Math. Some of the big topics covered were adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing positive and negative integers, proportional relationships, area and circumference of circles, solving problems involving percents, algebraic thinking, and introducing them to probability and statistical samples. I was so impressed this year with 7th Grade's commitment to learning. I really look forward to seeing where this class goes in the future, they are all so wonderful!



Summer Learning Suggestions for Fifth Grade

Math:

- Cook! Practice Measurements, working with fractions, and converting one unit of measurement to another
- Have students calculate/estimate the cost of the items you are buying at the store
- Talk about time. For example, "We got into the car at 4:45, it is now 6:17, how long have we been in the car?"
- Have students help set and stick to a budget. Create the grocery list, plan how much money you have to spend, and have them help you stick to it.

Reading:

- Read every day! Read outside, read before bed, read in the car.
 - Go to the library
 - Read to siblings/cousins
- Read as a family and discuss the book (example questions; "Who is your favorite character and why? How has the main character changed since the beginning of the story? What do you predict will happen next?")



6th/7th Summer Learning Suggestions for Math

- Cook meals together! Think about measurements, converting measurements, and ratios!
- Calculate gas prices for a road trip (How many miles per gallon does your car average?)
- Have students set a budget. This could be for a road trip, groceries, or a birthday party. What is a reasonable budget? How much will things cost? Where can we cut costs if needed?
- Have students calculate sales tax and sale items. For example, if a pair of shoes is 25% off, what is the new price of the shoes?





8TH GRADE MATH



We were very pleased with the results of the 8th grade Math NWEA Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) test. As a class, they made so much more than their expected growth and individually, the majority exceeded their goals. In class we spent the last months learning so much. We learned the Laws of Exponents and how to apply them with Scientific Notation. We also learned how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide with numbers in Scientific Notation. We learned how to solve square root and cubed root equations and also spent some time learning the Pythagorean Theorem. We learned how to determine if numbers were rational or irrational and how to change even repeating decimals into fractions. Each quarter of the year, the students put together a portfolio showing what we learned in math to share with their parents. Our goal in 8th grade math is to be well prepared for HS Math and I feel that again, these graduates are ready!

I'd like to thank the 8th grade class for their Service Learning Project. They spent a morning putting together furniture for the new Cultural Expansion.



Middle School Literacy

6th Grade—The 6th Graders made tremendous progress in ELA this year. We worked through our curriculum with a strong emphasis on writing complete, well-written sentences. Our most prevalent areas of focus were figurative language, various literary genres, and different styles of writing. We ended the year with a culminating project where students reflected on our final unit, “Surviving The Unthinkable.” They thoroughly enjoyed reflecting on the stories we read and looking back into Dakota history, recognizing that they all come from survivors. Seeing how they connected with and reflected on the readings was a proud moment for me as a teacher. I am especially proud of the writing growth and confidence our students gained this year. I am looking forward to building on this success next year!

7th Grade—Our 7th Grade ELA students have been hard at work mastering critical middle school skills! This year, we focused heavily on evaluating literary elements, identifying figurative language, reading and writing various forms of poetry, and honing our analytical abilities

For our final project, students dove deep into the world of metaphors. After exploring how they work, the class crafted personal "metaphors of life" and concluded the year by writing narrative essays chock-full of this figurative language.

We’ve seen some fantastic growth in our students’ reading and writing this year, and I can’t wait to build on these skills even further next year!

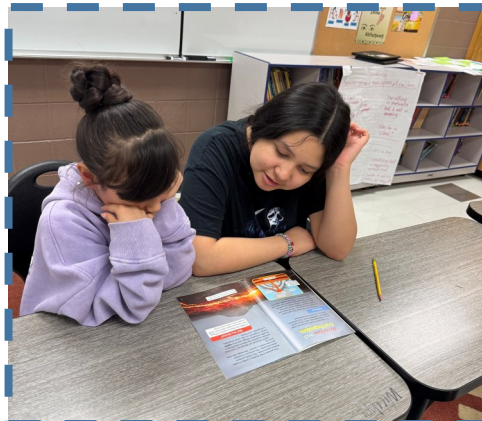
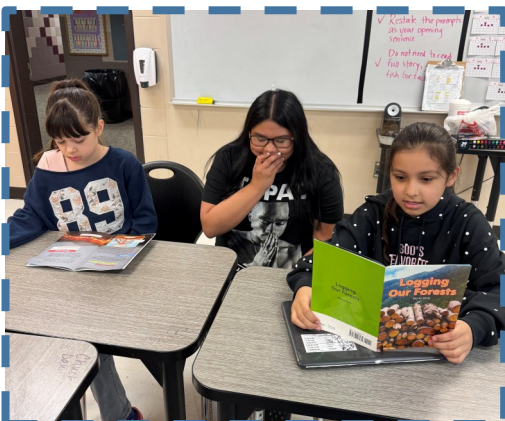
8th Grade—I am so incredibly impressed with my 8th graders' willingness to grow in their writing and reading analysis this year. They pushed through challenges, made impressive strides, and successfully navigated the changes they were presented with in ELA. After completing their persuasive essays, the school administration heard their voices and made some of the positive changes the students had hoped for.

Throughout the year, we covered essential skills, including annotating text, literary analysis, understanding rhetorical devices in speech and writing and citing sources in expository writing. They also were able to express their creative sides in writing free verse poetry as well as Shakespearean sonnets!

We ended the year with research projects focusing on tribal relatives from around the country, including the Blackfeet, Pamunkey, Athabaskan, Yurok, Southern Paiute, Choctaw, Mohawk, Calusa, Shawnee, Chippewa, Cree, Cherokee, Apache, and Navajo nations. The students were highly engaged and many expressed how much they enjoyed learning about other tribes, realizing both how much they have in common and how diverse tribal histories are.

This class worked incredibly hard, and I am so proud of them! I was thankful to get to know each of them as individuals through our class discussions and personal writing styles. I am excited to see them flourish in their future paths, and I am truly going to miss each of their wonderful personalities.

—MorningSong Manning



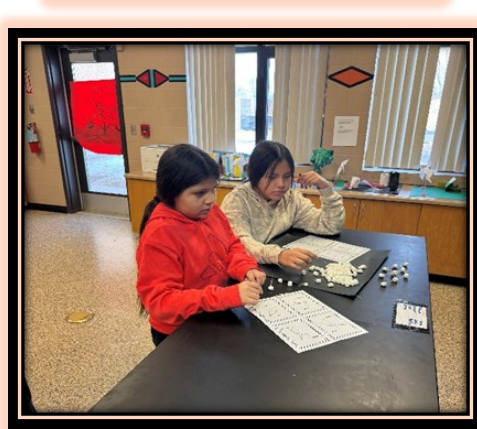
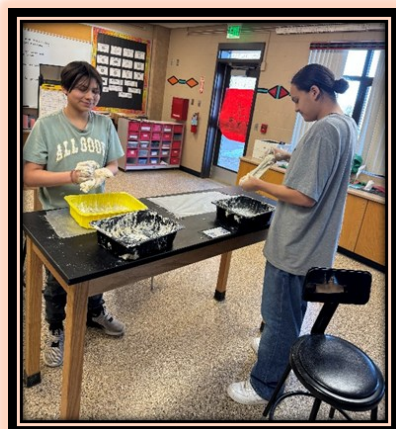
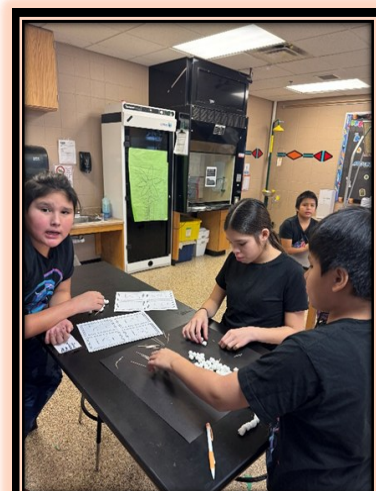
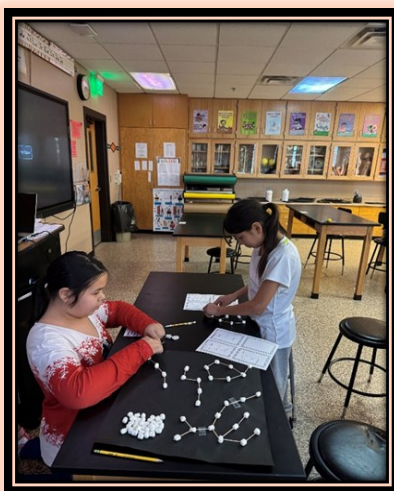
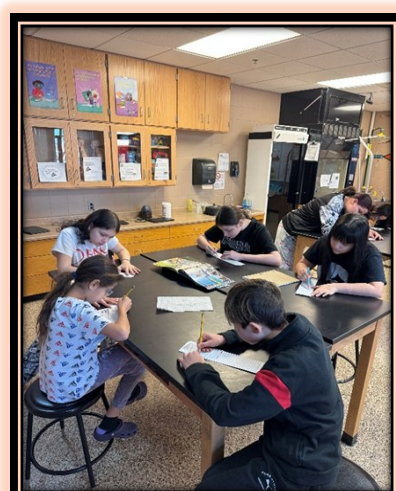
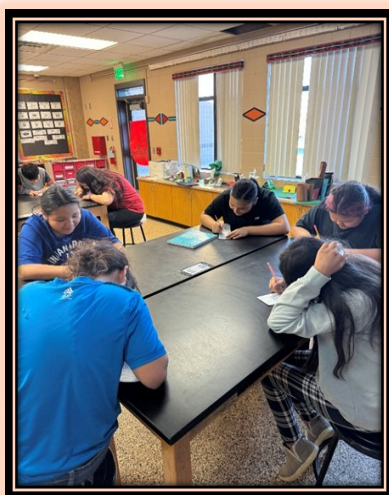
Middle School Summer Learning Suggestions for ELA

- ❖ Write “How-To” guides after completing summer activities/events
- ❖ Write “Thank You” letters
- ❖ Write letters to future self
- ❖ Write correspondence emails to friends and family
- ❖ Check out a book from the public library for 20 minutes of silent reading, respond in 3 sentences in a reading journal
- ❖ Read poetry and write poems mirroring a particular form (*example: sonnet, free verse, limerick*)
- ❖ Read magazines and the tribal newspaper. Highlight sentences and words you find interesting!
- ❖ Vocabulary exercises using new words
 - Word of the Day – find a new word and use it as many times as you can throughout the day. Encourage your family to use the words as well!
 - Write 10 sentences a day using descriptive words
 - Read your sentences with a partner daily
 - Analyze your music! What are they saying in the lyrics? Are they using figurative language?
- ❖ Remember reading and writing are communication skills and communicating well leads to better understanding, ease, clarity and enjoyment!



Middle School Science Newsletter

As we come to the end of the school year, we celebrate the growth, curiosity, and hard work of our science students. Throughout the year, students engaged in hands-on learning, experiments, and meaningful discussions that helped them better understand the world around them. They explored a variety of science topics, developed critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and worked both independently and collaboratively. Across all grade levels, students developed important skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, and using evidence to support their ideas. It has been exciting to watch their confidence grow as they took on challenges and thought like real scientists. Thank you for your continued support throughout the school year. I am proud of all our students and encourage them to continue exploring and staying curious over the summer. Have a safe and enjoyable break!



E'SDS Music Program Newsletter

As we come to the end of the school year, we celebrate a meaningful year of learning, growth, and music-making in the K-8 Music Program at Enemy Swim Day School. Throughout the year, our students explored music through singing, movement, listening, creating, playing instruments, and performing together. Each grade level worked hard to build important musical skills while also strengthening confidence, creativity, teamwork, and cultural connection. It has been a joy to see students grow not only as musicians, but also as learners who are willing to try new things, take risks, and share their talents with others.

Our FACE, Kindergarten, and 1st Grade students focused on building strong musical foundations. They practiced keeping a steady beat, identifying and performing basic rhythms, exploring tempo through fast and slow music, and using their singing voices with confidence. Through movement activities, singing games, and classroom songs, students learned how music can help them listen, follow directions, express themselves, and work together. They also had opportunities to sing songs in Dakota helping them to connect music learning with language and culture in a joyful and meaningful way.

Our 2nd and 3rd Grade students continued to build on their foundational skills by exploring more intermediate musical concepts. They worked on reading and performing rhythms such as eight notes, sixteenth notes, and rests, while also learning about dynamics, including loud and soft sounds. Students also explored improvisation, giving them opportunities to create their own musical ideas and respond creatively through sound. In addition, they began developing instrumental skills through recorder activities, strengthening their note reading, finger coordination, breath control, and ability to perform as a group. All of these are in addition to learning songs in Dakota which gives them opportunity to express themselves and a sense of identity.

Our 4th and 5th Grade students spent the year growing as young ensemble musicians. They practiced reading music with greater independence, listening across the group, maintaining a steady tempo, and playing with better tone and control. Through recorder and Dakota flute performance, students learned how to play together as an ensemble while developing focus, patience, and responsibility. These experiences also helped prepare them for the next step in their musical journey as they move toward participation in the band program. Their work this year showed strong growth in musical understanding, confidence, and readiness for more advanced instrumental learning.



ESDS Music Program Newsletter

Our 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Band students made a tremendous progress as beginning instrumentalists. Students learned how to properly assemble, hold, play, and care for their band instruments while also developing skills in note reading, rhythm, tone production, breath support, articulation, and ensemble performance. For many of our students, this year marked the beginning of their journey in band, and we are very proud of the dedication and perseverance they showed. Learning a band instrument takes a lot of patience and consistent practice, and our students worked hard to grow individually while also learning how to contribute to the sound of the full ensemble.

This school year was also a significant year for the continued growth of our music program. Through several grant approvals, we were able to expand learning opportunities and provide more resources for our students. These grants have helped us to provide band instruments for all students in the middle school band program, ensuring greater access to instrumental music. We were also able to purchase microphones and classroom speakers to support instruction and performance preparation. In addition, the program integrated MakeMusic, a technology-assisted assessment tool that supports instruction, practice, and assessment by helping students receive immediate feedback and continue improving their musical skills.

Most importantly, this year reminded us that music education is about more than the notes, rhythms, and performances. Music helps students build confidence, creativity, discipline, teamwork, and a sense of belonging. The growth we see in the music classroom is not always something that can be measured by a standardized test, but it is seen in the moments when students sing with confidence, play their first notes, help a classmate, perform in front of many people or connect with Dakota language through music.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our school administration including the BIE, teachers, staff, families, and community members for your continued support of the music program. Your encouragement helps us create meaningful opportunities for our students to learn, perform, and grow. Most of all, we are proud of our students for their hard work, dedication, and willingness to share their music with others. Wopida Tan̄ka for another wonderful year of music at Enemy Swim Day School!

