

To: Dansville School Board Members

From: Andy Cox

Date: June 21, 2021

Re: DES update

- Our Aggie Academy for the summer will be continuing its impact to reach Kindergarten students all the way through exiting 5th grade students. This summer school opportunity will provide students a jump start to the upcoming year as we meet 4 half-days a week, 3 hours at a time, for 17 days in June.
- The hiring process has been a busy process this spring. Amy Convey has been hired as a 5th grade teacher, Jamie Jocques has been hired as a 1st grade teacher, and we are currently looking for another staff member to help with Special Education needs. We have also hired Katherine Johnson to help in the elementary office to take Jan Baker's position.
- The 5th grade team presented end of the year awards and recognition for graduating from the elementary. This year required a different approach just as many of our district ceremonies did due to COVID. I want to thank the 5th grade staff for their efforts to make sure our students still felt special and recognized for their hard work this year.

Elementary Over-Night Field Trips

5th Grade Camp:

The five day, four night trip takes place during the second week of October at Mystic Lake Campground near Lake, MI approximately 10 miles west of Clare. There are 17 classes that students experience throughout the week with the majority of them covering 5th grade science curriculum. There are team building and physical education classes that naturally have long term benefits as students develop deep bonds that last the duration of the year and beyond. Their experience at camp coincide with literacy lessons taught prior to the trip as they read "Hatchet" and make connections with their survival class. Evening hours are filled with fun activities such as a talent show, dance night, campfire, and teacher performances.

4th Grade Mackinac Trip:

This Social Studies based trip takes place over two days, one night typically the Thursday and Friday after Memorial Day. Fourth graders spend all year learning about Michigan history, mining, shipping, lumbering, and many other facets of Michigan's resources. Our most recent trip took us into the UP so students could see the Soo Locks in action as well as Whitefish Point and Tahquamenon Falls. Mackinac City and Mackinac Island have been the main focus of this trip for several years as visits to the forts, Jack Pine Lumbering

Show, and carriage tours make a well balanced trip that nicely summarizes all of the learning 4th graders have had in Social Studies all year long.