**Board Report**

**Jim Knott –High School Principal**

**Douglas County West High School**

**December 17, 2018**

With winter break approaching, the end of the first semester will soon be upon us. Final exams for high school students will take place on Thursday and Friday, December 20th and 21st. On those two days, class periods will be extended to roughly 80 minutes to accommodate time requirements for final tests and projects. Testing periods 1, 3, 5, and 7 will be held on Thursday while testing periods 2, 4, 6, and 8 will be on Friday.

Statewide Junior ACT test results were released to school districts on August 6, 2018. The 2017/18 school year was the second year that ACT tests were required for all juniors across the state of Nebraska. The average senior (2018 graduate) ACT test score for DC West High School was 21.8. This score is two tenths higher than the previous year’s ACT Test average (21.6) and nearly two points higher than the state average (20.1). “We felt we scored very well compared to our neighbors and our poverty rate.” Stated high school counselor Ron Michael. Listed on page two of this report are statistics from the *Omaha World Herald* comparing area high school ACT average test scores and poverty rates. The ACT test will be given to all current juniors on April 2, 2019.

On December 2, I traveled to Dallas to attend the national Learning-Forward Conference with Mr. Krusemark and Dr. Poloncic. It was the largest and best professional conference I have ever attended. Each time slot had hundreds of sessions covering every school leadership topic imaginable. I attended several different sessions on how to become a more effective instructional leader through the evaluation and coaching of teachers. I believe evaluation and coaching is one of the most important aspects of instructional leadership. As a principal, I can continuously improve instruction in my building by hiring great people and by coaching those we currently have. I left the Learning-Forward Conference on December 5th with several ideas I could use to improve my coaching in the high school. Thanks again to the DC West Board of Education for supporting these types of professional development opportunities for administrators.

**Comparison of Area High School Average ACT Scores and Poverty Rates**

**School AVERAGE ACT SCORE POVERTY RATE**

Elkhorn South 24.6 3.6%

Millard West 23.3 8.4%

Elkhorn 23.0 13.0%

Bennington 22.9 10.8%

Gretna 22.8 10.8%

Millard North 22.6 16.9%

Lincoln East 22.6 20.6%

Lincoln Southwest 22.1 18.5%

**DOUGLAS COUNTY WEST 21.8 28.6%**

Westside 21.5 31.5%

Papillion LaVista South 21.1 16.6%

Papillion LaVista 21.0 24.1%

Lincoln Southeast 20.7 36.1%

Millard South 20.4 31.2%

Bellevue East 19.5 43.6%

Lincoln High 19.5 60.4%

Omaha Central 19.1 59.2%

Fremont 19.0 51.4%

Omaha Burke 18.8 50.8%

Lincoln Northeast 18.7 58.4%

Ralston 18.6 48.9%

Lincoln Northstar 18.2 58.1%

Omaha North 17.9 70.7%

Omaha South 16.1 88.8%

Omaha Bryan 15.4 85.3%

Omaha Northwest 15.0 78.3%

Omaha Benson 14.9 86.5%

**\*Poverty rates are represented by the percentage of students who qualify for free and reduced lunch pricing.**

**\*\*Statistics compiled by the *Omaha World Herald*, October 31, 2018.**