Board Report Jim Knott - Principal

August 16, 2021 Douglas County West High School

After the trials and tribulations of the last school year, it has been great having a relatively normal summer. However, every year when August rolls around, it brings with it the excitement of a new school year, kids in the building, and the promise of fall activities. This fall also marks a milestone for me as I begin my 10th year as the High School Principal at Douglas County West. As I reflect on what it means to be at one job in one place for a decade, I think how far we (and I) have come. When I “crossed the river” in 2012, I was under 40 and entering my first head principal job. Now I am the second most-tenured principal in the Conference and although I certainly don’t have it all figured out, I do feel like we have been able to build upon our successes in order to better meet the needs of all of our students. Over the last nine years, I have found DC West to be a special place with an inclusive culture and progressive outlook. As we move forward, we do so with the challenge of not losing our small-town values while continuing to stretch our boundaries as far as what we can provide students.

We will have four new teachers at the high school this fall. They are listed below with a brief bio. Please stop by and meet them at our upcoming open house on Tuesday, August 17 from 6:30-8:00.

**\*Lindsey Boardman (High & Middle School Science) -** Mrs. Boardman has a Bachelors degree from the College of St. Mary as well as Bachelors and Masters degrees from Chadron State University in Biology and Chemistry.  She taught 7-12 Science at Carbon County School District in Wyoming for the past four years and worked for the USDA Forest Service in Chadron prior to teaching. Mrs. Boardman will teach 7th grade science, High School Chemistry and High School Honors Chemistry at DC West.

**\*Adam Loftis (High & Middle School PE/Strength & Conditioning Coordinator)** - Mr. Loftis has a Bachelors degree from Hastings College and a Masters degree in Exercise Science from UNO. He was the Head Strength and Conditioning Coach at Iowa Western Community College from 2018-2020 and an Assistant Strength and Conditioning Coach at University of Alabama Birmingham from 2016-2018. Mr. Loftis will teach Strength Training and Conditioning at DC West Middle and High School.

**\*Cyndi Thomas (Middle/High School Health & Family and Consumer Science) –** Ms. Thomas has a Bachelors degree from Chadron State and a Masters Degree from Doane University. She taught Clothing, Foods, and Interior Design at Omaha Central High School for the previous two years. Ms. Thomas will be teaching Health, Culinary Skills, Fashion Design, and Interior Design at DC West.

**\*Ian Waterman (High School Science)**- Mr. Waterman earned Bachelors and Masters degrees from the University of Nebraska in Science. He taught Science at Roncalli Catholic High School last year and was a teaching assistant at the University of Nebraska prior to that. While at UNL, he conducted original research in ecology, botany, and biology. Mr. Waterman will teach Biology, Physics, and Zoology at DC West.

New student registration will took place the week of August 9. I plan to include high school student numbers in my next board report. GO FALCONS!