**Board Report February 10, 2020**

**Jim Knott –High School Principal**

The spring semester has gotten off to a good start at DC West. High school parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, March 9th and 10th from 3:45 – 7:45. Although parents are able to keep up with their student’s grades today much better than in the past, we believe there is still great value in parents, teachers, and students meeting face-to-face to discuss academic progress. The third quarter will end on March 11th.

On the January 20 teacher workday, teachers from DC West Middle and High School got together with teachers from Omaha Skutt Catholic High School to collaborate on technology use in the classroom. Technology Integration Specialist Sandi Lemke stated, “The collaborative professional learning day I organized with Skutt Catholic was beneficial, allowing secondary teachers from DC West and Skutt to discuss curriculum/content, exchange ideas, and share resources with one another.  The day was a huge success!  There were 71 teachers from DC West and Skutt who completed a follow-up survey. Sixty-seven participants (94%) responded that they would be in favor of doing this again in the future.  Because of this positive response, I have plans to do something similar next year, perhaps inviting more schools and including elementary teachers.”

Over the last four years, teachers have been required to participate in instructional rounds at the high school. Instructional rounds consist of 2-4 teachers visiting another teacher’s classroom for 15-30 minutes to observe and then follow that observation with a debriefing session. At the debriefing meeting, the participating teachers follow a procedure that includes recalling what they observed from the teacher and students that confirmed a quality practice they are already using as well as what could possibly be incorporated into their own classroom. After the debriefing session, the observing teachers send a follow-up email to the teacher that was observed. The following is an example of an email that was sent to high school Health teacher Judy Smith by Kim Remmick, Chip Daehling, and Dan Maline.

*“Thank you so much for letting us come in to observe your classroom. We liked the way you split kids up into groups. Thought it was a clever and easy way to get new partners each time. We liked the way you have your room set up. There seems to be plenty of room for you to move around comfortably. Noticed no phones which was nice.*

*What an interesting topic to cover, telepathy, clairvoyance, and precognition. Good review on previous material. Students were engaged in the activity and seemed very interested. They asked questions and were on task. Very interesting topic.*

*Take away – Groups sorting – Hands-on activity. We may try something like this, really liked this idea. Thank you again for letting us observe. We truly enjoyed the topic and you did an amazing job. Great creativity.”*

\*\*The fall 2019 Honor Roll of Distinction and Honor Roll of Merit are listed on the following page.

