**Board Report Jim Knott –High School Principal**

**Douglas County West Community Schools October 10, 2019**

As we move towards mid-October, several important things are happening or are coming up at Douglas County West High School. Parent-teacher conferences will be held on October 14th and 16th. Typically our attendance has been around 100 parents/guardians who attend over the two evenings. Although the nature of parent-teacher conferences has changed over the years since the advent of Powerschool and other similar student management systems, we still believe parents meeting face-to-face with their son or daughter’s teachers has great value.

On Wednesday, September 25, we held our fall testing day for high school students. Seniors had the day off, Juniors took the Pre-ACT in the morning while freshmen and sophomores took the MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) tests throughout the day. High School Counselor, Mr. Michael, said, “The Pre-ACT is a great opportunity for students and staff to prepare for the statewide ACT test in the spring. We will get student results back in a few of weeks. The results will show the high and low points of each individual’s test. Students and teachers can then work on the areas where they didn’t score as highly in preparation for the state-wide ACT test in the spring (March 24, 2019).” The MAP tests for freshman and sophomores provide parents, students, and teachers academic data in the areas of math, reading, language, and science. Fall MAP scores are also used as a baseline to compare with scores in the spring to show academic growth over the school year and can be used to help place students in the correct math and English courses.

In the fall of 2018, we added a new class at DC West called Freshman Seminar. The class was created to add a level of support for students who struggled academically in middle school but do not qualify for special education services. The idea is to create a small study environment that is supported by a teacher who is adept at forming positive student relationships. Mr. Maline is currently teaching one section of Freshman Seminar. Starting this fall, we added another layer of support to Freshman Seminar by creating a teacher team called the Freshman Success Team. The teacher team meets monthly to help support students in Freshman Seminar. Mr. Maline stated, “The meetings have led to some great discussions between teachers revolving around how to better serve and accommodate the students in Freshman Seminar. We know that students who finish their freshman year on-track to graduate are much less likely to drop out than those who finish ninth grade without the proper credits. Our role is to do everything we can to make sure these students end their freshman year on-track.” Members of the Freshman Success Team are Jim Knott (HS Principal), Nathan Ter Beest (HS AP), Dan Maline (HS STEM Teacher), Ron Michael (HS Counselor), Randy Donner (Lead Teacher – Falcon Success Center), Gayle Smith (HS English 9 Teacher), Val Randall (HS Physical Science Teacher), Ty Hansen (HS Special Education Teacher), Jeremy Travis (MS Principal), and Lindsey Arnold (MS/HS Math Teacher).