

Falcon Print

The booster club is an essential group that helps our students thrive. The Booster Club is a group of dedicated parents that enhance our students' ability to accomplish their goals and succeed in everything they do.



The Falcon Booster Club

Written By: Allyson Cooke & Halaina Hunter

The Falcon community comes together to strengthen this school and support the activities within the district. Laura Troy, President of the Booster Club, states "The Booster Club's mission is to fuel our student-athletes' experiences and strengthen our athletic programs for success." Mrs. Troy was previously on the DC West Youth Sports board and decided to join the Booster club last year where she served as the Secretary. This year she received the opportunity to become the president of the club and has made a huge impact on this school. Mrs Troy, states "We truly have an incredible team that makes supporting our athletes both meaningful and enjoyable. With my husband coaching football — and having been supported by the Booster Club for years — stepping into this role has been a lot of fun and a great way to stay involved and connect even more deeply with our students and community." The activities in our school thrive from the encouragement and resources they receive from the Booster Club. Mrs. Troy also says, "We want our student-athletes to feel celebrated, our coaches backed, and our parents involved - where DC West school spirit is alive in our community! We do that by helping fund program needs, sponsoring opportunities the school can't always cover, and finding ways to celebrate and build up our Falcons."

The Falcon Booster Club Continued..

The Booster Club is an amazing group that supports each student involved in activities at DC West. In 2019 the Booster Club became a non-profit which allows them to receive help from the community. The Booster Club thrives from the community, whether its corporate sponsors, donations, volunteers, or anything that helps the club invest in our student-athletes. This club is a great way for new or returning parents to get involved with their child's activities. Mrs Troy says, "We're always looking for support across all sports, whether that's serving as a parent liaison, helping for a few hours at one of our events, sharing a social media post, thanking our corporate sponsors, or proudly displaying a Falcon yard sign. Every bit of involvement helps keep the momentum going!" There are so many ways for DC West parents to get involved in the Booster Club. Whether you can help with a lot or a little, your help can make a huge impact on helping the Booster Club expand their reach and keep their momentum going!

The funds they receive go to many activities and sports throughout the school. The club provides donuts and t-shirts for SALT, two \$1500 scholarships to seniors each year, and state/district recognition yard signs. Mrs Troy says that their largest requested items include "wrestling warm-ups and mats, softball & baseball helmet racks, cheer mats, renting a golf simulator bay, football tackling dummies, and more!" The community's help enhances the clubs chances to give the teams these helpful items. The Booster Club also sponsors BSDN live which allows everyone to watch and support our student-athletes succeed in what they do best. The BSDN covers around 70 sporting events each year, allowing everyone to watch without any cost. Without the Booster Club our school wouldn't be where it is today. They continue to make a lasting impact on the students that help set them up for a life beyond high school. The Booster Club is a great way to be involved with the students, coaches, and the overall school district.

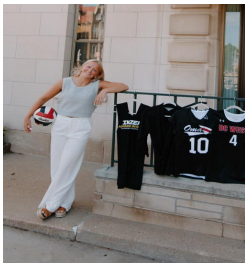
Senior Spotlight

Written by Emma Kopocis and Talia Walsh



**Bella
Anderson**

Bella Anderson has been at DC West High School for all 4 years. She currently participates in cheer, Student Council, FBLA, and FCA. Outside of school, she works at Pure Barre and babysits. Bella has a pretty busy lifestyle but has learned to balance all her activities by staying on top of her homework in classes. After high school she is planning to attend the University of Nebraska Lincoln and is thinking of majoring in business.



**Jasmine
West**

Jasmine West has attended DC West High School for all 4 years. She is very active within the school participating in powerlifting, volleyball, SALT, STUCO, NHS, and FCA. Jasmine is also currently on the FCA leadership team as well. She constantly is volunteering at her church that she attends. Jasmine has a lot always going but she recommends that you use your time in school to get your work done. After high school, she is planning to powerlift in college. She is undecided on where she wants to go. Jasmine in the future is wanting to get a job in law enforcement.



**Collin
Besterfield**

Collin Besterfield is currently a senior at DC West High school. He currently does not participate in any clubs or activities. Collin has a job editing videos at Smart Freight Funding. After Highschool he wants to go to school to become a real estate agent. Collin wants to get a job as a landlord.



**Caiden
Hoops**

Caiden has attended DC West all 4 years of high school. He is currently a captain on the football team and is a lead within FCA. In his free time he tends to work for his dad on the weekends. After high school he is currently planning to attend college and major in Business Administration. He is undecided on playing sports and is not sure of where he is planning on attending college. Caiden wants to become a part of his family business and help with finances for his job after college.

Falcon Fuel



Falcons Regain Their Wings

Four former Falcons — Garrett Hoffman, Brad Henderson, Rachel Wald, and Katie Nelson — have returned to DC West, not as students, but as coaches.

Rachel and Brad graduated in 2013, while Garrett and Katie graduated in 2021. These alumni, once standout students and athletes, are now giving back to the community that helped shape them.

Garrett and Brad are now on the football coaching staff, while Rachel and Katie coach volleyball. Their leadership, once seen on the field and court as students, continues to shine in their roles as educators and mentors.

Recently, all four were interviewed about their transition from players to coaches and their experiences since returning. The first question was: "What was it like being on the sideline as a coach instead of a player?"

Both Garrett and Brad admitted the transition was strange at first, but deeply rewarding. They expressed how meaningful it is to give back to the same program that gave them so much.

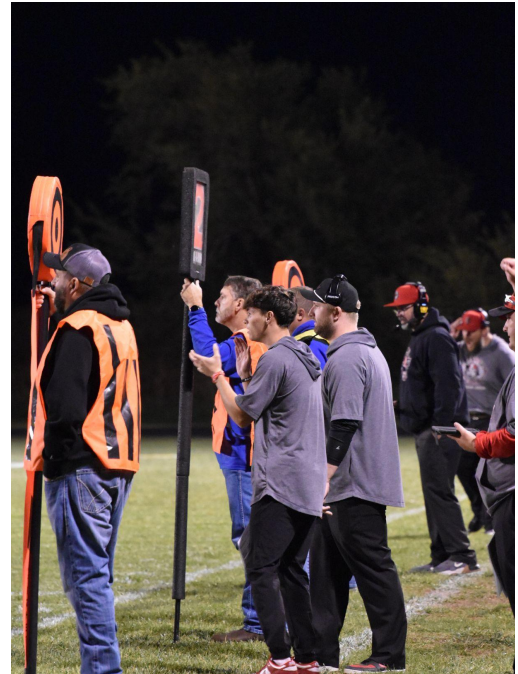
The next question: "How has the program changed since you were a student?"

Once again, their responses aligned — they both pointed out how the culture and expectations at DC West have evolved. Things that weren't considered "normal" during their time as students are now the standard.

When asked, "What lessons do you try to pass on to your athletes?", Brad emphasized always giving 100% effort, reminding players that any game could be their last. Garrett focused on helping athletes enjoy the game and make the most of every moment.

As for their inspiration to coach, Brad named Mr. Loewe, and Garrett credited Mr. Pralle — both educators who clearly made lasting impressions.

Switching gears to volleyball, Rachel and Katie were asked the same set of questions.



When reflecting on coaching vs. playing, both said they now see the game from a new perspective — one that offers a deeper understanding and appreciation.

They also praised the growth of the volleyball program, noting that different kinds of success are now more normalized. Their advice to athletes? Enjoy every moment, because time moves quickly. Both coaches gave special thanks to Mr. Wald, a mentor who left a lasting impact beyond the volleyball court.

In the end, it's clear that these four former Falcons are a perfect fit back in the DC West community. Their presence, passion, and dedication are felt by students, athletes, and staff alike. The students are thankful to have role models who not only walked the same halls but are now leading the way.

Written by Kayden Foster

Teacher's Corner

This week we asked teachers what their advice to their high school self would be...

Ms. Dailey's Advice

Ms. Dailey has been at DC West for three years now. She teaches freshman English, Honors English and digital journalism. Miss Dailey was in high school from 2013-2017 she said her advice for her high school self was to, "Try new things and not worry about looking stupid or silly or worry about what other people think. Just get out there and trying all new things because you never know what you might like until you try it."

Mrs. Beyl's Advice

Mrs. Beyl is in her tenth year of working at DC West. She teaches choir, honors choir, guitar, piano, and musical theatre. Mrs. Beyl also helps out with one act and the elementary musical. Mrs Beyl was in high school from 1986-1990. When asked what advice she would give her high school self she said, "Don't listen to the haters".

Mrs. Billedeaux's Advice

Mrs. Billedeaux has worked at DC West for the past six years. She is the counseling center secretary. Mrs. Billedeaux went to high school from 1994-1998. She said the advice she would give her high school self was , "to be my true self, to not follow trends, To just be who I am, and to be confident." I believe everyone should follow some of the advice the teachers wish they could have gotten in high school.

Written by Aurora Harris and Peyton Casper



Here at DC West, we take great pride in our teachers and staff. DC West prioritizes making sure students can learn new daily skills everyday to the best of their ability. We have a very productive environment where learning is always a top priority. The staff and teachers take great pride in creating a positive and focused atmosphere that supports every student's growth. Teachers are highly dedicated, always going the extra mile to make sure we understand the material and stay motivated. The school also encourages strong learning habits and offers support to help all students succeed, no matter their learning style. Speaking on this topic, one teacher that has been at our school for 27 years, and has continued to help our environment, Ms. Cox! Ms. Cox is a great role model and positive impact on our school. If you go to DC West High school, you know Ms. Cox. Sadly, she was diagnosed with breast cancer during the summer of 2025. Ms. Cox was at her routine mammogram when it was discovered. With Ms. Cox being diagnosed with breast cancer, she obviously has many different doctor appointments, surgery, and now radiation that takes her time away from school.

She states "Everyone has truly been incredibly supportive. They have checked in with me, covered my classes, and given me flowers and gifts. Teachers and students have also shown their support by wearing pink on Wednesdays during the month of October." Something that is so hard for her is that she is an incredible teacher that is close with so many students, so her being gone with these appointments, is taking her class time away. She also states "My co-workers shared with me anything that I missed at the meetings". Everyone has truly been so supportive of her and her journey. Overall, we wish her a happy and fast recovery. She has such a great impact not only at our school, but on the students and other staff/teachers. As a reminder, make sure you wear pink on Wednesdays!

Written by Lilly Kosiske and Johanna Luthy

Hometown Highlights



Mr. Janke stands alongside his nominated school board colleagues



Mr. Janke's co-workers hard at work, smiling for all they do in such a great community.

Our community thrives off of many family owned businesses such as Luke Janke's plumbing business.. Luke Janke has helped the Douglas County West community so much through the years. While interviewing Mr. Janke, we asked questions about his participation through his business and the school board. We first asked Luke how long has his business been around as well as a brief history of his business. "We're going on our 41st year and I've been running it for 20 years," Janke said. His dad started working in the business when he was two years old and grew up working in it. Mr. Janke has been working since he was 12. It's the only job he's ever done. He has around 75-80 employees. Janke plumbing does all new construction. The Janke Plumbing business has about 12-14 graduates employed currently from DC West.

We asked Mr. Janke what his favorite thing about our Douglas County West community was, and he mentioned how great the teachers and administration were as well as a shoutout to our special education teachers and how they are phenomenal. Leading into that we followed up with the question of what made you want to be involved with the school board. Luke Janke said that knowing what the "ins" and "outs" of the education system where my kids are going to school and having a say in the education is crucial. Luke Janke's many successes made it an easy vote for him to be president of the school board. Mr. Janke had to be nominated and go through many meetings and votes to earn his position on the school board. Mr. Janke's actions have made him come a long way, and has helped the community grow together. Thanks for all you do!

Written by : Mallory Shaw
and Parker Steskal

On Wednesdays, we wear pink!

On Wednesdays we wear pink! During the month of October, we celebrate those who suffer from breast cancer. On every Wednesday of October we ask you to wear pink to show support.

Toy Drive!

On October 27th to November 7th DC West Student Council will be hosting a toy drive to anyone who would like to help. They are collecting anything from board games, books, and puzzles. They will then host a shop & swap night on November 11th, you will be able to swap anything that it there with something you bring!

Halloween dress up!

On October 31st, halloween, students are allowed to dress up andx wear your costumes to school. Show us your halloween spirit. We encourage our students to show their own personalities through their costumes. No masks allowed but don't let that limit your enthusiasm for a fun costume.

Written By: Adisan Jeffrey and Ava Newbauer