

North Dakota School for the Deaf Resource Center

A School Without Walls

BANNER

2025-2026

Volume 136



Looking back with pride; Looking forward with confidence.



The North Dakota School for the Deaf is a division of
the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction,
Levi Bachmeier, State Superintendent.

Our Vision:

To support individuals with hearing differences in achieving their dreams.



NORTH
Dakota

School for the Deaf
Resource Center

Our Mission:

To educate and serve all individuals with hearing differences from birth through senior citizenship.

Our Purpose:

To serve as a statewide education and resource center to provide advocacy, leadership, and expertise in the field of Deaf Education and for those with hearing loss.

Our Beliefs: All students are **ABLE**

Acquire and learn language and communication in English and in ASL.

Become lifelong learners through hands-on experiences using all senses.

Lead and advocate for themselves and others.

Express their identity as learners who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind.



Donna E. Sorensen

Superintendent's Summary

Every year at this time I think, 'how did we get here so fast?' This year has been magical as the students have grown so much taller, some even taller than the staff now, and they have grown in learning and knowledge. This year, many students had the 'aha' moment of reading! They can recall where they have seen particular words and they go to that place to help them with writing that word. They have gained math facts and number sense. Students have increased independent living skills in the Student Life Program like keeping their rooms clean and doing laundry. For some, it continues to be a work in progress.

Our Parent-Infant and School-Aged Outreach department serves students, families, and school districts across North Dakota. They have worked tirelessly with the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program and the Early Intervention programs. Because of this work, infants and toddlers are being identified and served appropriately to help prevent language deprivation. Students in mainstream programs are getting the necessary accommodations and modifications required by their IEPs.

Adult Hearing Outreach has provided workshops around the state to first responders, assisted living facilities, and peace officers, sharing ways to work with Deaf adults and adults who have lost hearing later in life. They work with individuals who have lost hearing by showing various technologies that provide information access, keeping those individuals safe and happy.

Our Facilities Department has been slowly rolling out a new "work order management system" that is a one-stop shop for all information related to equipment that keeps our campus running smoothly and efficiently. It tracks work orders from submission to completion, and the system allows us all to be responsible for the working condition of our campus.

This year, teachers have been involved in discussions related to ASL-English Bilingual Education, Auditory Training, research about children's screen time use, Conscious Discipline, Cognia and CEASD Accreditations, IEPs and triennial evaluations, Artificial Intelligence (AI), ASL classifiers and multiple meaning words (words that are the 'same' in English and have different meanings – and therefore different signs – depending on the subject matter), and even a few books such as *The Disengaged Teen*, *Words on a Wall*, *Is Everyone Really Equal*, *The Unrecognized Curriculum: Deaf Culture and Deaf Pedagogies*, *Radical Reflections*, and *The Anxious Generation*.

As we look to next year, we will be diving further into CEASD Accreditation. Thank you to all who filled out those long surveys! We will also be looking at our 2023-2027 Strategic Plan for our agency, updating our progress in accomplishing goals, and drafting a 2027-2031 Strategic Plan. We also hope to get our ND Friends of Deaf Children Foundation active again to further support our NDSD/RC Vision, Mission, and Purpose.

I look forward to continuing this journey with all of you. Together, we can accomplish everything we set our minds to. I am grateful YOU are part of this learning and growing village!

Peace Always and Wishing You Well, *Donna E. Sorensen*

2025-2026 NDSD/RC Employees

Donna Sorensen, Superintendent

Education

Wendy Palmer*
Linda Koth
Turi Leiphon
Nicole McIvor
Carrie Moen, para
Susie Peterson, para
Susan Schwab-Kjelland
Kim Shereck
Kale Smith
Lisa Vega, para

Communications

Renae Bitner
Melissa Brekke, sub
Tammy Derrick
Kaitlyn Halvorson
Jeanne Johnson
Cindy Mays
Kayla Perez
Lindsey Solberg Herbel

Residential

Jaylee Anderson
Stephanie Crowell-Goeser
Corene Docter
Rob Hendrickson
Rhiannon Houle
David Lundy, sub
Lynette Smith
William Smith
Krysten Williams

Business Office

Diane Frelich*
Shayla Ebertz
Shelly Laverdure

Facilities/Custodial

Chris Eckes*
Doug Anvik
Nathan Kraft
Cindy Lee
Zach Longie
Cory Morstad
Timber Schwab

Health Services

Tracy Hoeltl*
Lisa Elverud

Technology

Kerry Olson-Rysavy*

Food Service

Chris Eckes*
Emily Anderson
Tate Cichos
Karen Maloney
Katrina Wickware

Outreach

Nicole Swartwout*
Linda Ehlers
Tami Iszler
Denise Marback
Ashley Martin
Jodi Scheeler
Lana Zimbelman

Adult Outreach

Kristen Vetter*
Kathy Frelich
Dawn Sauvageau
Karen Zinke

Lifeguard

Darwin Brokke

Transportation

Scott Elvrum
Matt Moen
Gordy Shipley

**Department Leader*

Susan Schwab-Kjelland, Editor

≡ Welcome ≡ New Staff



Jaylee Anderson
Student Life Coach



Melissa Brekke
Substitute Interpreter



Rob Hendrickson
SLC Nightwatch



Rhiannon Houle
Student Life Coach



Nathan Kraft
Custodian



Lynette Smith
SLC Nightwatch



Jeanne Johnson



Karen Maloney



After 32 years as a sign language facilitator at NDSD, Jeanne Johnson has decided to retire.

Jeanne began her career working various small-town jobs in her home area of New Rockford. She later earned two associate degrees in Wisconsin and Denver before joining NDSD in 1994. Jeanne says she will miss the students, the friendships she has made, and the many fun adventures shared with kids over the years. However, she will not miss the 100 mile daily round trip commute from New Rockford—especially crossing the lake pass during the winter months. Jeanne is blessed with two children, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Her future plans include enjoying the summer months and spending time with her animals. She may also look for part time work closer to home to stay busy.

Best wishes, Jeanne! Thank you for your many years of service to NDSD/RC.

Karen Maloney retired this year after 16 years in the NDSD dining room.

Karen came to NDSD with plenty of experience, following 28 years working in the cafeteria at Mercy Hospital. She raised four children and is a proud grandmother of eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She loves kids and says the best part of her job has always been the students, watching them grow and change over the years. When asked what she will miss most, Karen shared, "Hugs from kids, morning coffee with staff, breakfast with Nathan, and chatting with Cindy Lee." Future plans include yard work and tending flowers on the family homestead in the Webster, North Dakota, area, as well as spending more time with family. We thank Karen for her many years of dedicated service and wish her a long, happy, and healthy retirement.

Back to School

2025 2026





Paraprofessionals Susie Peterson, Lisa Vega, Carrie Moen



These dedicated women are truly our everyday heroes. Without hesitation, they step up to take on responsibilities above and beyond the call of duty. Their classroom talents, dedication, and support are deeply appreciated.



Kaitlyn Halvorson, Interpreter

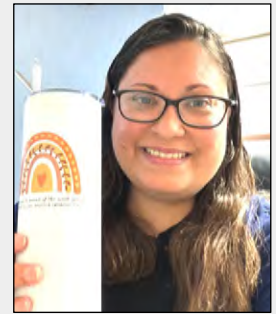
Kaitlyn passed the EIPA test this year and is now a Certified Educational Interpreter. She is set to graduate from Valley City State University in December 2026, with a BS in Career & Technical Education. Kaitlyn hopes to one day be a high school / college ASL instructor.



Language Facilitators
Jeanne Johnson, Kayla Perez, Cindy Mays



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Lisa (Lapp) Vega

Lisa (Lapp) Vega was born in rural southwest North Dakota to Aaron and Cindy Lapp. She was born Deaf and was not exposed to sign language until the age of three, when a hearing woman visited Lisa's family and introduced them to signing. Lisa's world changed from one of frustration to pure joy as she gained the ability to communicate. "My parents wanted me to have full access to sign language, so I was placed at NDSD."

Lisa's parents were strong advocates for Deaf education and built lasting friendships within the Deaf community. Her father later founded the **North Dakota Friends of Deaf Children Foundation**, and her mother was employed as a cook at the school.

Lisa holds many fond memories of her years at NDSD and recalls countless experiences with beloved teachers. She remembers reading humorous stories with Connie Jorgenson, creating art with Sonja Leonhardt, learning math strategies from Nicole Henke, swimming lessons with David Zimmerman, birthday celebrations in Denise Marback's classroom, science classes with Anne Green, life lessons with Diane Rice, reading and writing activities with Paula Hartze, field trips with Patricia Horner, assisting Lilia Bakken with ASL classes, and gaining valuable advice and life skills from Pam Smith. Being in school plays is among Lisa's most cherished memories. "I remember in one, I did a Hawaiian dance with Kim Shereck and I also performed with Henry Brenner – that was so fun!"

"Henry Brenner was one of my Deaf role models. I learned so much from him when he talked about what was happening in the world," Lisa says. Another powerful influence was award-winning Deaf actress Phyllis Frelich, whom Lisa spoke with during Phyllis's visits to NDSD, also her alma mater. According to Lisa, reading with teachers and friends, along with dedicated silent reading time, fostered a lifelong love of books. "When I visit a library, it is still one of the best times of the day," she says.

Lisa's educational journey has required exceptional dedication and perseverance, particularly while working various hourly jobs and raising a family. After graduating from NDSD, she attended the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, New York, where she met her Deaf husband, Alberto Vega. The couple later moved from North Carolina to Colorado, where Lisa worked as a classroom assistant at the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind. It was during this time that she decided to pursue a career in Deaf education.

Lisa studied at the University of Minnesota–Duluth and the University of Minnesota–Twin Cities, earning a Bachelor of Science in Deaf Education Studies (Thematic) and a Master of Education in Special Education for Deaf and Hard of Hearing. During the 2025–2026 school year, she completed her student teaching at NDSD while also working as a paraprofessional. In addition, she worked online after school with ASL students from Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Minot State University, and served as a tutor through the Rhode Island Sign Language Initiatives.

Outside of her professional life, Lisa has a deep passion for the arts and enjoys music, art, dance, literature, theatre, and travel. "I feel the music," she says. Lisa hopes to try painting and making pottery.

Lisa and Alberto Vega have two hearing CODA (Child of Deaf Adult) daughters.



Apple Orchard Adventure



While researching a unit on apples, kindergarten teacher Kale Smith discovered the website for **Oxbow Orchard**, located near Grafton, North Dakota. He arranged a visit to the orchard, where the local owners grow between 16 and 20 varieties of apples, along with hundreds of mum plants, pumpkins, and beehives used to produce their own honey products. The visit provided an exceptional hands-on learning opportunity for everyone. Later that same day, students and staff also enjoyed a corn maze and additional activities sponsored by **Grafton Parks and Recreation**.

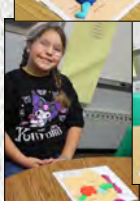




Deaf Awareness Week is a time for special activities and community involvement.



We were invited to the **Lake Region Public Library** for a morning of reading, exploration, and creative, hands-on activities. Other children in attendance also had the opportunity to experience a story presented through sign language by an interpreter.



Teachers led discussions with students about the differences between being Deaf and hard of hearing, as well as the various types of hearing equipment. Some students created models of the inner ear using playdough.

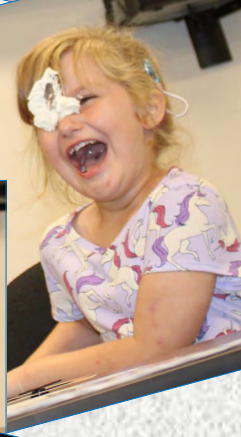


Below: Lisa Ginther, ASL Associate Professor at LRSC brought her ASL I class for a tour of our campus by Supt. Sorensen. They enjoyed the opportunity to meet and interact with a few of our students.



A highlight this year was
ASL BINGO
for a “Prize or a Pie”
in the face.

Deaf Awareness Week



Deaf Mentor Program

Supports Families Across North Dakota



Deaf Mentors in North Dakota:

Sharon Potter-Sayler, Bismarck

Kale Smith, Lead DM, Devils Lake

Tania Sayler, Fargo

The Parent-Infant Program of the North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center is proud to offer the **Deaf Mentor Program** for families of young children with hearing differences.

Through the Parent-Infant Program, families receive accurate, unbiased information and resources to help them make well-informed decisions that best support their child's growth and development. Topics discussed may include how amplification works, auditory development, language development (signed or spoken), literacy, and communication options.

The Deaf Mentor Program pairs families with a Deaf adult mentor who serves as a role model for both the child and family. Deaf Mentors provide regular home visits to share American Sign Language (ASL), Deaf culture, and their personal experiences with deafness. These visits give families meaningful opportunities to learn, ask questions, and build connections within the Deaf community.

In addition to Deaf Mentor visits, children and families also receive regular home visits from a parent advisor—an early interventionist and Teacher of the Deaf who specializes in working with children with hearing differences from birth to five years of age.

With support from Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) funding for training, the Deaf Mentor Program has expanded to include three Deaf Mentors located across North Dakota, increasing access and support for families throughout the state.

Families must be enrolled in the Parent-Infant Program to participate in the Deaf Mentor Program. For more information or to enroll, families may contact:

Nicole Swartwout, Parent-Infant Program Coordinator
nicole.swartwout@k12.nd.us
(701) 739-9509



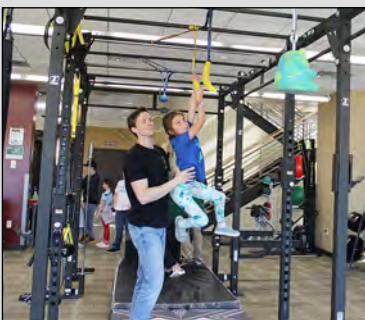
A day with the *Deaf Ninja*

Kyle Schulze,
7 time competitor on
the TV show,
American Ninja Warrior.



On October 6, 2025, NDSB students and education staff were invited to a special event at **Minot State University**. Dr. Holly Pedersen, professor of Special Education at MSU, organized and hosted an experience featuring real-life *Ninja Warrior* competitor **Kyle Schulze**.

Schulze began the event with a motivational presentation and then challenged students to participate in two obstacle courses. Supper was provided, followed by a group viewing of the documentary *Deaf President Now*.



Read more about Kyle Schulze on his website, <https://thedeafninja.com/>



HAPPY Halloween



Students participated in a full schedule of Halloween activities, including word games and scavenger hunts. They created their own pipe cleaner spiders and competed in a bracket-style race tournament. Dressed in their costumes, students trick-or-treated throughout the campus buildings.



Pumpkin Decorating Contest

The Wellness Committee once again sponsored a pumpkin decorating contest. There is no shortage of creativity at NDSD/RC.



Student winner: Blake



Staff winner: Shelly



Health Services by Tracy Hoeltl, Director



Tracy Hoeltl

Your child is ready to embark on one of the most fun adventures...
SUMMER CAMP!

Whether it is your child's first year of camp or they are a veteran to exploring the joys of summer camp, it can bring about a lot of questions. How do we as parents prepare for time away and guarantee a memorable experience? Start by having open conversations about being aware of surroundings such as safety around water, campfires and even walking trails. Prepare them with the summer safety essentials such as sunscreen, a water bottle, insect repellent, sunglasses and small first aid kit. Health physicals are a wonderful way to make sure your camper is healthy and ready to take on the experience. If your child has health conditions, it is important to contact the camp beforehand to see what paperwork and physician orders may be required for attendance. Also, make sure you have adequate medications with pharmacy labels intact so camp staff may properly assist with administration. Homesickness can be normal feelings for children spending time away from home. Talking through what they might do if they experience homesickness may also provide a greater sense of control. Packing familiar comfort items and teaching calming and help-seeking strategies are great ways to help prepare. With the right preparation, the summer camp experience can be one of your child's most memorable summertime experiences.

'Twas the Week Before Christmas



Merry

Christmas

2025





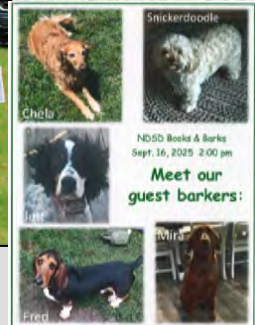
Library Lines

Susan



Books & Barks

A Books & Barks event was held on a beautiful September day. To promote reading skills and boost reading confidence, the younger children, coached by the older students, read stories to guest dogs and their owners.



"It's not about what it is, it's about what it can become." *The Lorax*



Scene from *Tea Party in the Woods* by A. Miyakoshi





Library Lines



Library students planted and named three amaryllis bulbs and predicted what colors the flowers would bloom. Over three weeks, they carefully watered, measured, and documented the plants' growth and changes. "Nicole," "Steve," and "Sally" rewarded their efforts with beautiful blossoms just in time for Christmas. Later, students dissected the plants to explore and learn what was inside.

NOVEL GROUP

The Novel Group studied two award winning novels this year. First, we read *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo, and brought the story to life by re-enacting the final picnic scene. Next, we read *Stone Fox* by John Reynolds Gardiner, a powerful story that truly tugged at our heartstrings. Both novels are rich in vocabulary and meaningful themes, giving us plenty to discuss and reflect on together.





Adult Outreach

A Year of Connection, Safety, and Support

By Kristen Vetter, Coordinator

As we look back on the past year at the North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center, our mission remains clear: to ensure that every adult in North Dakota with hearing loss has the tools they need to live independently and stay connected to their community.

The NDSD/RC Adult Outreach team continues traveling across the state— logging thousands of miles each year—to provide essential services at no cost to those who need them.

A New Milestone:

First Responder Training has been the major highlight of our accomplishments this year. This program is in addition to our statewide established Law Enforcement Trainings for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. In high-stakes emergency situations, communication barriers can lead to dangerous misunderstandings.

By training North Dakota's police, fire, and EMS personnel, we are helping them recognize hearing loss in the field and utilize tools like visual "visor cards" and text-to-911 services. This training is a vital step in ensuring equal protection and safety for all our citizens.

Our team focuses on empowering independence through service with new training initiatives. Our core programs continue to serve as a lifeline for adults.

This year has been defined by our commitment to break down barriers and build bridges. Whether providing a simple piece of assistive technology or a statewide training session for emergency personnel, the Adult Outreach department is here to ensure that no North Dakotan needs to navigate hearing loss alone.

Connect with the Adult Outreach Team

Kristen Vetter, Adult Outreach Coordinator

Grand Forks
kristen.vetter@k12.nd.us
701-230-8701

Kathy Frelich, Adult Outreach Specialist

Devils Lake
kathy.frelich@k12.nd.us
701-665-4416

Dawn Sauvageau, Adult Outreach Specialist

Fargo
dawn.sauvageau@k12.nd.us
701-351-0207

Karen Zinke, Adult Outreach Specialist

Turtle Lake
karen.zinke@k12.nd.us
701-516-2464





Emily Anderson

This was our first year learning together in cooking class, and it was a great success. Throughout the year, we learned many new skills. Students practiced proper hand washing and kitchen sanitization while cooking. We expanded our vocabulary and learned new cooking techniques, and by the end of the year, reading and writing recipes was easy as pie.

Speaking of pie, each student made their very own pumpkin pie to take home and share with family at Thanksgiving. We celebrated holidays and national food days, and students proudly shared their hard work with staff.

Over the course of the year, we discovered new foods we enjoy and explored different ways to prepare our favorites. We wrapped up the class by creating a full recipe book, giving students something special to share with family and friends.



Outreach in Action

The North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center (NDSD) Parent-Infant and School-Age Outreach team continues to make a powerful impact, supporting families and schools of children with hearing loss across the state.

This year brought exciting opportunities to share our work beyond North Dakota! Our team helped educate professionals and agencies while co-presenting at the National Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Conference in Jacksonville, Florida. NDSD's Lana Zimbelman joined partners from North Dakota, South Dakota, and the University of Northern Colorado to present on statewide language outcomes tracking. Their session highlighted how both states are using Early Language Outcome (ELO) services to monitor and support children's communication growth, each in unique and innovative ways.

Closer to home, our Outreach team kept traditions going strong with favorite annual events, including:

- Regional Pumpkin Patch Family Days
- Virtual Santa visits
- "Growing Up Deaf and Hard of Hearing" virtual meetups
- Family Understanding and Networking (F.U.N.) events

We were also proud to co-sponsor the Midwest Conference for Deaf Educators in Sioux Falls, SD, bringing professionals together for learning and collaboration.

Learning opportunities continue statewide with a variety of sign language classes designed to meet local needs. In addition, a Deaf Mentor Training in Devils Lake welcomed participants from North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska, helping expand our reach even further. With two new mentors joining the North Dakota Deaf Mentor Program, we are excited to continue growing support for families across the region.

Together, we are building stronger connections, empowering families, and supporting every child's journey.



Allison Sedey, Lana Zimbelman, Jerusha Olthoff and Shelby Jepperson.



Linda Ehlers, Lana Zimbelman and Marly Schnabel were able to meet Justin Osmond who was a motivational speaker with a hearing loss at the National EHDI conference in Jacksonville, Florida.



Outreach expanded their regional pumpkin patch family get together to Belcourt area. Get togethers were also held in Bismarck, Minot, Williston, Grand Forks, Dickinson and Fargo.



Paula Pittman and Stacy Abrams of SKI-HI trained Deaf Mentors from ND, SD, and NE

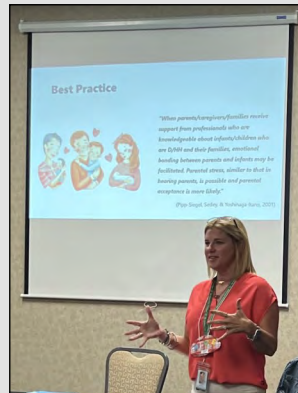


Making a Difference Across the State

Before winter break, North Dakota School for the Deaf Outreach Team hosts a virtual visit to Santa who has cochlear implants. He can communicate using voice or sign language. Some visits are held while children are at school or at home all across the state. Afterwards, the child is sent a video of the visit, and a Christmas packet that includes a letter from Santa.



The Parent-Infant and School-Age Outreach Department of North Dakota School for the Deaf had a blast at their annual Family Understanding and Networking (F.U.N.) in May. For the first time, the presentations were offered on-site and virtually to families.



A full day of learning about Deaf History and Deaf Identity with Emily Burke, D/HH Infusion Coordinator for Hands and Voices. Andrea Marwah, Executive Director Illinois Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side, presented on socialization and theory of mind for kiddos with hearing differences as well as advocating and understanding IDEA as it pertains to their children.

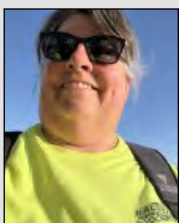
Presentations and tables at various conferences around North Dakota were squeezed into Outreach's schedule to continue sharing the services that the North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center provides.



Tami Iszler and Denise Marback assessing a student.

Conducting in-depth assessments is one of the services provided by the School-Age Outreach department besides monitoring the development of the little ones in the Parent-Infant Program.

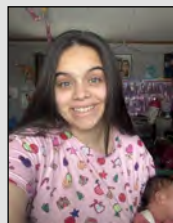
They also collaborate with other agencies to meet the individual needs of students in North Dakota.



Melinda Neff



Tania Saylor



Katherine Tanner

Growing Up Deaf and Hard of Hearing Guest Speakers



Linda Ehlers, standing, collaborated with Lanna Slaby of ND Vision Services and Courtney Fuch of ND Assist, with a student.



★ PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN ★



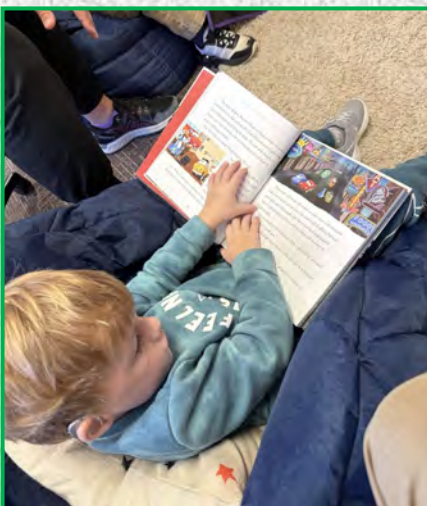
Kale Smith

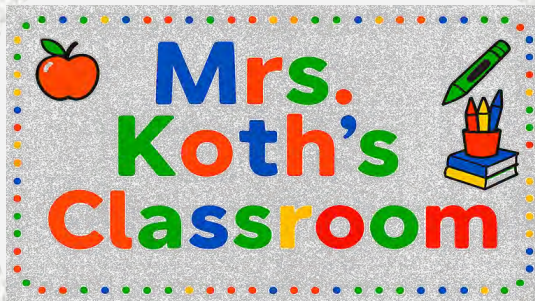


This school year, we worked very hard on learning our ABCs, practicing sight words, and developing both expressive and receptive language skills. Throughout the year, students made growth in communication, listening, and confidence in the classroom. Most importantly, we focused on building strong relationships and creating a positive classroom environment where everyone felt safe, supported, and excited to learn.



★ Through fun activities, teamwork, and daily routines, our classroom became a place filled with learning, laughter, and growth.





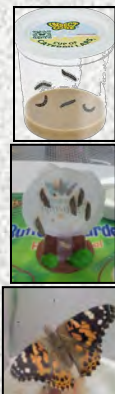
PLAY
LEARN
GROW



Linda Koth



Each year, Mrs. Koth's class explores the butterfly life cycle through a fun, hands-on project. We begin with tiny caterpillars and watch as they eat, grow, and form chrysalises. Each day, students observe the changes, learn new vocabulary, and make predictions about what will happen next. The most exciting moment is when the butterflies finally emerge. At the end of the project, we release the butterflies outdoors, connecting our classroom learning to the natural world. This activity has become a student favorite and helps children learn about nature, responsibility, and how living things grow and change. This year, we were thrilled to raise 19 butterflies!





Mrs. Shereck's Classroom



Kim Shereck



We LOVE art!



The second graders had a successful year of learning. Throughout the year, they grew and became more confident and independent learners. We focused on many important skills, including reading, writing, adding, subtracting, and communicating. The students worked hard and played hard as they learned together.

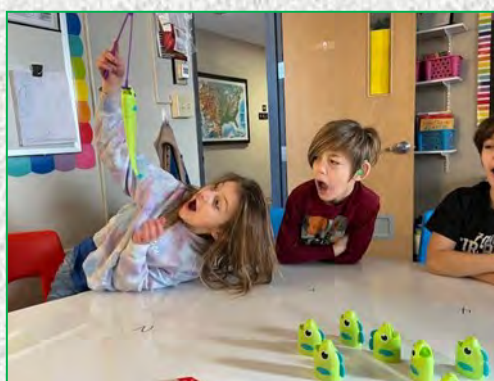
Most importantly, they discovered that we CAN do hard things in second grade!



Mrs. McIvor's Classroom



Nicole McIvor



Our classroom is a place where teamwork and curiosity shine every day. Students work together to solve problems, share ideas, and support one another as they learn and grow. Laughter and excitement fill the room as we explore new concepts, create, and discover. Each student is encouraged to do their best, work hard, and take pride in their progress. In our classroom, learning is fun, friendships are strong, and every day is an opportunity to succeed.

Middle School

Turi Leiphon

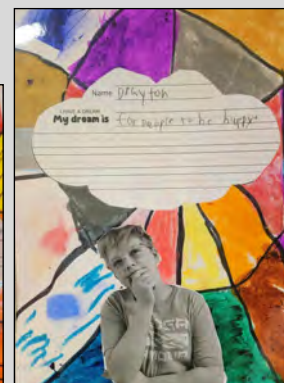


Our middle school students had a wonderful year filled with learning, creativity, and growth. In science, they researched the water cycle and used the makerspace to create their own water cycle dioramas. Classmates practiced presenting with one another before sharing their projects with other students and staff. It was a great hands-on learning experience that helped build confidence and teamwork.



We are very proud of the hard work, creativity, and growth our middle school students have shown this year!

Students celebrated **Martin Luther King Jr. Day** by researching Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights leaders. They worked together across classes to create "I Have a Dream" posters, which turned out beautifully.



Math

With
Mrs. Palmer



Wendy Palmer

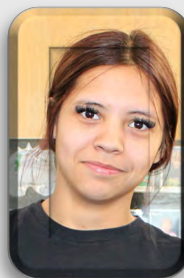


Students in Mrs. Palmer's Math Class spent the year learning about money through a school-wide system where they earn "Bulldog Bucks" for a variety of reasons, such as completion of work, helping others, and random acts of kindness, to name a few. They use their earnings to shop for prizes, giving them hands-on, real-life experience with saving, using and exchanging money.



Our high school students are Devils Lake High School (DLHS) students. This year, some of our high school students accessed classes on our campus through our partnership with American School for the Deaf's (ASD) Online Academy.

We appreciate working with DLHS and with ASD's Online Academy to best meet students' educational needs.





Awards Day

Service Awards



Kerry Olson-Rysavy



Kim Shereck



Karen Maloney



Kayla Perez



Tate Cichos



Stephanie Crowell-Goeser



Not pictured: Tammy Derrick and Jodi Scheeler



Shayla Ebertz



Lisa Elverud



Zach Longie



Nicole McIvor



Carrie Moen



William Smith



Krysten Williams



Karen Zinke



Awards Day



May 21,
2026



Learn the Language of Connection:

Basic Sign Language Classes Offered in Fall and Winter



Ashley Martin is a Teacher of the Deaf and a certified sign language instructor in North Dakota.



The North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center invites community members to expand their communication skills by enrolling in its Part 1 Basic Sign Language Class, offered twice each year—once in the fall and again in the winter.

Designed for beginners, this free online class meets one evening each week for eight weeks, making it an accessible option for busy families, professionals, and community members. Classes are held on Tuesday evenings, with each session lasting one hour. The fall session typically begins after Labor Day in September, while the winter session launches in January after the holiday season, offering multiple opportunities to participate.

While the class itself is free, those who wish to purchase the accompanying textbook may do so independently. The instructor draws on grammar lessons from the well-known textbook, *“A Basic Course in American Sign Language,”* by Tom Humphries, but takes a unique approach by selecting vocabulary based on participant feedback and interests. This ensures that the signs learned are practical, relevant, and immediately useful in everyday life.

For individuals who want to continue building their skills, a Part 2 Basic Sign Language Class may be offered if there is sufficient interest. Like Part 1, this advanced class runs for eight weeks on Tuesday evenings. Participants must complete Part 1 before registering, ensuring a strong foundation before moving forward.

These classes provide more than just instruction in sign language—they open the door to stronger connections with Deaf and hard of hearing individuals and help create a more inclusive community. Whether you are a parent, educator, service provider, or simply curious about learning something new, the North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center welcomes you to join and start signing.

For those interested, watch the **NDSD/RC Facebook** page for registration announcements in late summer and early winter.

Opportunities to communicate without barriers are just a few signs away.

Celebrating America's 250th Birthday

The annual summer camp sponsored by the North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center was held June 15-19, 2026, at the Triangle YMCA Camp near Garrison, ND. Experienced and new campers connected with peers with different hearing levels and made friendships that could last a lifetime.

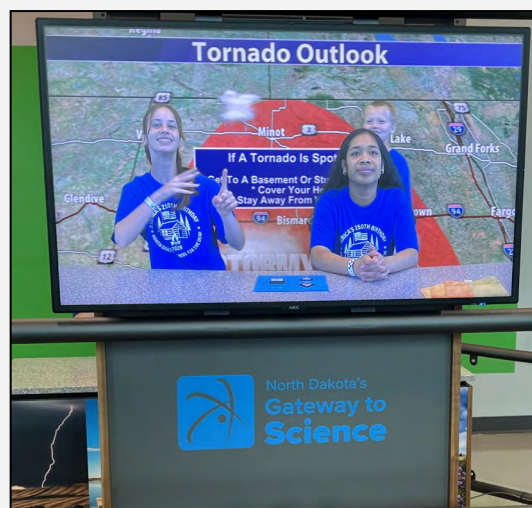
The theme this year was "America's 250th Birthday." Campers, age 7 years to graduation, enjoyed a variety of recreational events such as watersports, climbing the 50-foot tower and thrilling swing, a dance, s'mores and red, white and blue themed arts and crafts. Due to a rainy week, the campers were treated to the Gateway to Science Museum in Bismarck.



Creazilla



Standing on the city or town they are from on a map at the North Dakota's Gateway to Science Museum in Bismarck, represented individuals with hearing differences all over the state.



The [North Dakota State Library](#) (NDSL) has formed a digital collection partnership with its sister agency, the [North Dakota School for the Deaf](#) (NDSB). The Digital Initiatives Department at NDSL focused on digitizing the school's newsletters and making them publicly available on Digital Horizons. The *Banner*, the official newsletter of NDSB, was first published in 1891, and it is still published today. This digital collection was called the '[North Dakota School for the Deaf Banner](#).'

NDSL and NDSB decided to expand their collection partnership. The school has such a rich history, dating back to the 1890s, that it seemed appropriate to include more than just newsletters.

Several updates have been made. First and foremost, the name of the collection was changed. '*Banner*' was dropped from the title to reflect a broader name: the '[North Dakota School for the Deaf](#)' collection.

The *Banner* newsletters are still a core part of the collection. All issues of the *Banner* have been uploaded and are text searchable. Other documents, such as the school's trustee minutes and biennial reports, have also been added. Currently, the collection has biennial reports from 1890 to 2019. The collection also has registration ledgers from 1890 to 1933 that include information on the first 600 students who attended the school.

Images make up a large portion of the collection. These images include buildings, classrooms, sports, graduating classes, superintendents, and many more themes relating to the school.



The collection includes newsletters, biennial reports, photographs, videos, objects, and documents relating to NDSB since its inception in the 1890s to the present.

Consult the [collection's finding aid](#) to learn more about it and the school, or start exploring the collection by going directly to [Digital Horizons](#).

To view *The North Dakota School for the Deaf Collection*, go to:

<https://digitalhorizonsonline.org/digital/collection/p16921coll12>



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Dakota
School for the Deaf
Resource Center

<https://www.ndsd.nd.gov>

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Main Office	701-665-4400
Fax	701-665-4409
Adult Outreach Services (call or text)	701-230-8701
Parent-Infant Outreach Services	701-857-8681
Communications/Interpreters	701-665-4400
Library/Resource Center	701-665-4433

If you would like to receive the **Banner** by e-mail, please contact:

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Thank you for your help.

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information on how to receive the
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