

North Dakota School For the Deaf Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing

"A School Without Walls"

BANNER



*"Looking back with pride;
Looking forward with confidence".*

2019-2020

Volume 130



The North Dakota School for the Deaf is a division of
The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction,
Kirsten Baesler, State Superintendent



North Dakota School for the Deaf

Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Mission Statement

NDSD/RCDHH shall serve as a State Resource Center to provide advocacy, leadership and educational expertise for all individuals in North Dakota who are deaf or hard of hearing.

NDSD Core Values

We express our values by treating everyone **equally with respect, courtesy and dignity.**

Lead—improve lives

Advocate—empower people

Collaborate—build partnerships

Educate—inspire success

Superintendent's Update

Dr. Connie Hovendick



The 2019-2020 school year was the most unique of my 45 years in education.

The year began in the usual fashion. The students attended classes and were making great progress in their academic studies and participating in several courses at the public schools with their hearing friends. The interpreters were busy providing services for students in sports and other community activities.

We monitored the news and were aware of the COVID-19 virus and health concerns in other states. On Sunday night March 15th, our world changed. That evening the governor announced all schools in North Dakota were closed until further notice. What did this mean? How would we continue?

It was a time of uncertainty and we continuously made program changes as new guidelines were presented. Staff moved their offices to their homes and the NDSD facilities were closed to all but essential staff. Social distancing was the expectation with limited person-to-person contact. Our technology coordinator worked nonstop to provide and equip computers for staff to use in their homes.

Then we were notified that schools would be changing to distance learning until further notice. The NDSD team worked together to develop distance learning plans for our students which were approved by the Department of Public Instruction and the Governor's Office. We had previously purchased computers for each student to have at school, so these were mailed to them on March 25th. These computers became important tools used by parents/guardians and students for their lessons. Students who did not have Internet access were offered it by their local providers free of charge for the school year. The entire state worked together to find ways to continue quality education for students without access to school buildings.

Staff quickly learned to navigate new technology for meetings in virtual platforms of Zoom, Microsoft Teams, and Facetime to provide educational opportunities for our students in their homes. The NDSD teaching staff, dorm counselors, and nurses worked together to compile packets of books, information and assignments that were mailed weekly. Students received speech therapy via their phones. This new world of teaching by distance learning continued through the rest of the school year. Parents, guardians, grandparents and siblings all assisted the deaf and hard of hearing students with their lessons.

The Parent Infant program provided services from their homes and School Age Outreach provided weekly information guides for the public school teachers to assist in teaching their deaf or hard of hearing students online. Adult Outreach prepared captioned videos to be viewed on Facebook and sent information to clients who normally attend support groups.

Throughout this time of crisis and a continually changing world, the great staff at NDSD exhibited their creative ingenuity and found ways to provide services to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing across North Dakota, while following the guidelines of no face-to-face contact. Even though we were unable to have everyone together for an awards day, we did find ways to celebrate. At the end of the school year, dorm counselors and teachers drove to each student's home to deliver summer materials and awards. The pictures they posted of the students smiling and waving from the doors of their homes warmed our hearts and showed us that the close ties between students and staff remain, even during this pandemic.

This truly has been historical time across the state, nation and world.

2019-2020 NDSD/RCDHH Employees

Dr. Connie Hovendick, Superintendent

Education

Wendy Palmer*
Lacey Gemlo
Michelle Halpain
Linda Koth
Nicole Parker
Susan Schwab-Kjelland
Kim Shereck
David Zimmerman

Communications

Lilia Bakken*
Renaee Bitner
Jeanne Johnson
Turi Leiphon
Cindy Mays
Kayla Perez
Lindsey Solberg-Herbel
Nancy Trottier

Facilities/Custodial

Chris Eckes*
Jerry Allery
Erik Hoeltl
Cindy Lee
Brian Morken
Cindy Schneider
Timber Schwab

Admin Services

Diane Frelich*
Shelly Laverdure
Nancy Sylling

Dormitory

Sabrina Schmitz*
Morgan Gebhardt
Jeremy Johson
Suzanne Legacie
Shane Sowatzki

Health Services

Tracy Vilandre*
Niki Slater
Lezlee Thorson

Business Manager

Michael Loff

Technology

Kerry Olson-Rysavy

Outreach

Carol Lybeck*
Linda Ehlers
Denise Marback
Ashley Martin
Nicole Swartwout
Lana Zimbelman

Adult Outreach

Pam Smith*
Kathy Frelich
Dawn Sauvageau
Kristen Vetter

Food Service

Pat Vilandre*
Emily Anderson
Tate Cichos
Jeff Huber
Karen Maloney

Transportation

Barney Bischoff
Arvin Carlson
Dennis Lassig
Danyel Elverud

Lifeguards

Kali Bjornson
Darwin Brokke
Jessica Buckmier

*department manager



2019-2020



Welcome New Staff



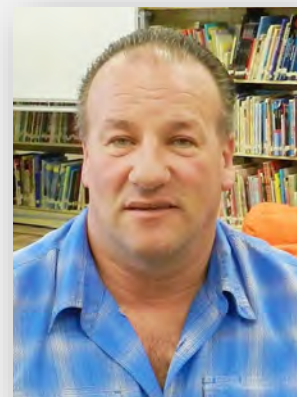
Lacey Gemlo

Hello! My name is Lacey Gemlo, the new preschool teacher. I grew up in Devils Lake, residing here with my husband and two dogs. I earned a Masters in Early Childhood Special Education from UND in 2017. My previous work experiences include Head Start and Anne Carlsen Early Intervention, both of Devils Lake.

I am excited to be back in a classroom again, as during the last 6 years I have done home visits with children aged birth – 3 who have special needs. I am looking forward to improving my American Sign Language skills, working with all of the staff who are so knowledgeable and all of the new challenges that will come with my new position.

My name is Shane Sowatzki and I am from Devils Lake. Since becoming a dorm counselor, I have been taking sign language lessons and learning from the students. I enjoy my time with the dorm kids, especially with outdoor activities such as fishing, deer watching, etc. I like to troubleshoot and problem solve and involve any interested dorm students, whether we work to repair a vacuum cleaner or bicycle.

My other hobbies include fishing, hunting, boating, camping, and ATV trail riding. I have a daughter, Jordan, and son, Jamie, who both live in West Fargo.



Shane Sowatzki

Retirement

Pat Vilandre has been a part of NDSD since 1988 and is ready to retire in July , 2020. During her 26 years here, Pat has worn many hats, starting as a substitute transportation driver, later a cook/custodian, and finishing as **Director of Food Services** for the past thirteen years.



Pat Vilandre

Pat says that keeping up with USDA programs and policies has been the most challenging part of her career. The best part? “The kids”, she quickly replies, “providing them nutritious meals and watching them grow and change over the years”.

So what’s next for Pat? She plans to keep busy with part time work and spend time with her grandchildren. And of course, go someplace warm for a couple weeks each winter.

Best wishes, Pat, for a happy and healthy retirement.

2020 Service Awards



45 Year Award

Carol Lybeck



40 Year Award

Lilia Bakken
Kerry Olson-Rysavy

5 Year Award

Kathy Frelich
Suzanne Legacie
Tracy Vilandre

30 Year Award

David Zimmerman

3 Year Award

Emily Anderson
Jeff Huber
Dawn Sauvageau
Lana Zimbelman

10 Year Award

Diane Frelich
Ashley Martin

U.S. Hockey Team brings home the Gold Medal at the **Deaflympics**.



Congratulations to the
2019 Deaflympics Gold Medal winners!

The USA Men's Ice Hockey Team defeated
Canada for the Gold Medal in the
2019 Deaflympics held Dec 21, 2019,
in Valtellina-Valchiavenna, Italy.



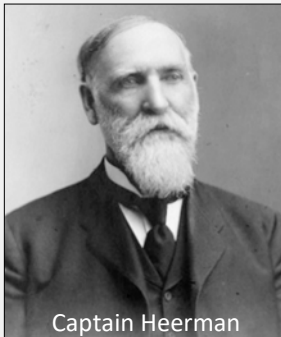
NDSD teacher,
David Zimmerman,
served as an assistant
coach for the
American team.
Nice work Team USA!





BANNER FLASHBACK

Minnie H Steamboat - Rudder and Steamboat Whistle given to the North Dakota School for the Deaf.



Captain Heerman

The building of the steamboat, **Minnie H**, on the shores of Devils Lake was epic in the history of the Midwest. In 1882-1883, the country was still mostly wilderness. Except for the military post at Fort Totten, there was no shelter or protection from danger.

It was during this unsettled era, in 1882, that Captain Edward E. Heerman pioneered to the Lake Region. He settled at Creel City, (now known as Devils Lake). At that time there was a high demand for transportation between three settlements on the lake: Creel City, Minnewaukan and Fort Totten, where a **federal military post** was established.

During the winter of 1882, Captain Heerman built the **Minnie H** steamboat on the shore of Devils Lake. While he worked, there were times the temperatures reached -30 to -50 below zero. He commented, "it was the coldest winter I had ever experienced." Captain Heerman designed the boat to carry freight, mail and passengers from the train depot in Creel (Devils Lake) to the other two settlements on the lake. When he finished building the boat, Heerman named it after his only daughter, Minnietta. The **Minnie H** made it first official trip on July 4th, 1883. For years, during the two weeks of **Chautauqua** season, the boat carried up to 3000 passengers to Fort Totten and other points of interest on the lake. The **Minnie H** operated until 1908 when it was dry-docked and put to permanent rest because of the receding lake shoreline.

When the **Minnie H** ceased operation, Captain Heerman retired from his career as a steamboat operator. He dismantled parts of the **Minnie H**, moving the pilot's room to his yard in Devils Lake where he converted it into a playhouse for his grandchildren. Both the rudder of the ship and the steam whistle were given to the **North Dakota School for the Deaf**. Captain Heerman asked Charles Osburn, the carpentry-shop teacher at the school, to make gavels with the wood from the rudder. One of the gavels that Osburn made was given to U.S. President Hoover. The steam whistle was mounted on the top of the powerhouse at **NDSD**. The whistle blew daily, at rising and retiring of day, and to signal meal time.

After years of use, the whistle was taken down from the powerhouse and then lost track of. It was recently announced, that a citizen of Devils Lake has donated the long-lost steam whistle to the **Lake Region Heritage Center**! The whistle is an important historical relic of the Lake Region and of the **ND School for the Deaf**. It is on display at the **Heritage Center** in Devils Lake.

Captain Edward E. Heerman died at the age of 95 years and is buried in the Devils Lake cemetery.

Deaf Awareness Week 2019



'Sign Language Rights for All'



NDSD students and staff hosted tours and activities for visitors from local public schools.

Students learned how sign language differs around the world.





HAPPY HALLOWEEN



Mrs. Palmer's high school students in the **Steps to Success for D/HH Students** class planned, constructed and directed Halloween activities for the younger students. Each event encouraged movement, coordination and skill.



STEAM

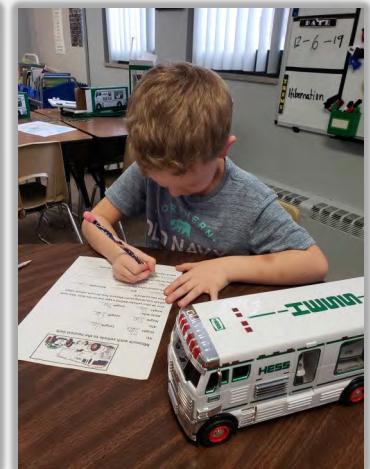
STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. Each of **STEAM's** five subjects share a common approach and focus. They require gathering and using evidence to create knowledge or solve problems. **STEAM** learning happens naturally every day as children explore, play, and try new things.

It helps students:

- ask questions.
- connect the dots.
- problem solve.
- be innovative.



EDUCATION



Above: Students used Hess Trucks to conduct an experimental comparison of three different vehicles measuring height, length and distance traveled. They then used the evidence to answer questions.



Problem-Based Learning activities presented by the NESC.

Left: Students contrived adhesive bandages using everyday materials found in the home.



Right: Using paper plates, student devised two different models of flying discs and tested the difference in flight distance.



In honor of Veterans Day, teachers and students took a fieldtrip to Camp Grafton, south of Devils Lake. There, SFC Dawn VanSteenvoort treated them to a tour of the Regional Training Institute. Students also had an opportunity to climb into a military Humvee; soldiers cut wooden Humvee replicas for students to paint and take home.

Later, some of the students attended a Veterans Day program at Central Middle School where SFC VanSteenvoort was the guest speaker.



Native American Day

The students' week was filled with Native American studies, stories, projects and activities. Special guests, local NDSD alumni Robbie, Bryce and Corene, visited with us about their years at NDSD and about their personal experiences with **Native American Culture.**



We Wish You a



NDSD/RCDHH staff and families celebrated the culture of kindness this holiday season by collecting and donating 229 pairs of new socks. These gifts of warmth were given to the **Lake Region Community Shelter** located in downtown Devils Lake.

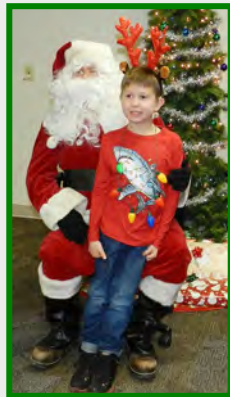


Students and staff enjoyed a potluck meal and fellowship before leaving for Christmas break.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Signing Santa stopped by to distribute gifts, pose for pictures, and visit with the children. He was not able to stay long, as he is very busy this time of year.



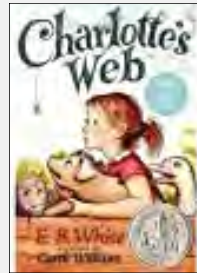


Library Lines

Susan



NOVEL GROUP



Members of the Novel Group know that a novel is always a long fiction story, and we learned that there are many different kinds of fiction.

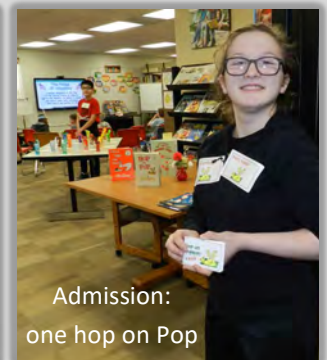
1953 Newbery Honor book, *Charlotte's Web*, by American author E.B. White, is **fantasy**, yet even with a cast of characters of talking animals, the story is rich with real life lessons, most importantly true friendship and loyalty.



Sarah, Plain and Tall, the 1986 Newbery Medal winner by Patricia MacLachlan, exposed us to **historical** fiction, which takes place in a real historic place during an authentic period in history. Even the dialogue is typical of the era. It was fun to picture ourselves in late 1800's attire.



Dr. Seuss's Birthday
Hop on Pop popcorn
flavors sampling event.



Admission:
one hop on Pop

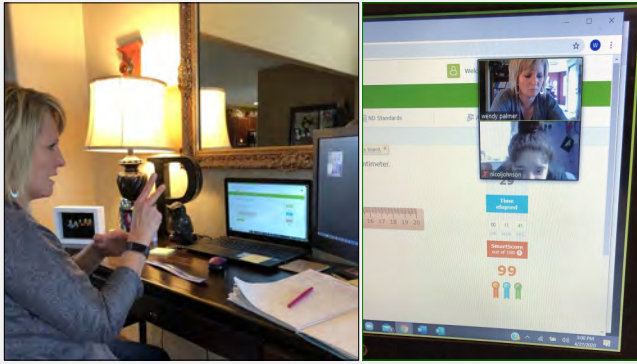
Library Lines, continued



**"CHILDREN SEE MAGIC
BECAUSE THEY LOOK FOR IT."**
- Christopher Moore



Distance Learning a Result of COVID-19



The Coronavirus threw us a curve in mid-March, but our Technology Coordinator, Kerry Olson-Rysavy stepped into high gear to supply all staff and all students with equipment and connectivity necessary to continue education from home.

According to Lead Teacher, Wendy Palmer. "Distance Teaching/Learning is not without challenges and has been a valuable learning experience. Zooming with students was a way to stay connected".



A Comparable Time in NDSD History



Supt. Burton Driggs

While NDSD's unofficial school historian, Lilia Bakken, was conducting some research of the history of the school, she came across this clip from a **1932 issue of the Banner**.

"Even though it was written eighty-eight years ago", says Bakken, "it still rings true today."

In the midst of the terrible depression of the '30's, Superintendent Driggs of the North Dakota School for the Deaf, wrote an article printed in the 1932 issue of the Banner. A portion of his article follows:

*Instead of closing school on June 8 as originally planned, the 1931-32 session will terminate on May 27 on which day all of the pupils shall leave for their respective homes. The economic situation in the state is such that retrenchment is necessary - the Board of Administration is endeavoring to reduce expenses of all the state institutions by twenty percent. Part of this will be in the reduction of salaries and part in maintenances and in equipment. **We have been teaching six days in the week instead of five** since April 11 so that the children will not lose any time from their studies by the curtailment of the term.*

I recall, years ago, an old college professor of mine said, "All the equipment a good teacher needs is a blackboard and a room full of children." This year has been, to me a joyful one, because it has shown so clearly the true work of the people employed in this institution. They have been tried and have not been found wanting. So we shall go on feeling that no matter what comes, all those who have anything to do with the care and education of children in this school, will place the welfare of those children first and themselves last.

Adult Outreach

The Adult Outreach Department had a very busy year. In addition to working with clients on a daily basis, the team:



- expanded the Law Enforcement presentations schedule across the State, as well as continued with the training of new police officers in five locations.



- trained 100 lawyers statewide regarding legal issues that may impact the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community in North Dakota.

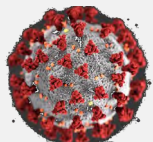


- consulted with the State Capitol Accessibility Project to ensure that renovations considered the needs of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.



- continues to collaborate with ND Assistive, to procure assistive technology that helps to keep our older adults safe and independent.

Due to COVID-19, Adult Outreach had to switch to a new model of service provision:



- Our Resource Groups were no longer able to meet, so weekly handouts were mailed to each of our 160 group members.
- Team members *virtually attended* many webinars and trainings, to increase skills.
- Educational posts were added to the NDSD Facebook page and staff continued to provide services to our clients by working via telephone with family members to get safety equipment into homes.

June Update:

**We are thrilled to be back on the road,
providing direct services once again!**



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Kristen Vetter

Adult Outreach Specialist
Office: 701-795-2792
kristen.vetter@k12.nd.us

ICE FISHING

Devils Lake, ND
March 7, 2020



It was a beautiful day in the ice fishing community on Saturday, March 7, 2020. Families with children with hearing loss from across the state came to try their hands at ice fishing. They were shown how an ice hole is cut out, to load bait for the tip ups and how to spear fish. In the end, no fish were caught, but several young fisher-people made new friends. They were also able to ride and drive the Snow Bear owned of Brye's Guides of Devils Lake.



An art contest for teens who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing was held during the COVID-19 pandemic. Two winners, with completely different art forms, tied for first place.

Both won \$25.00 gift certificates.



Rose Baumgartner is from Strasburg, ND. She entered this string art project. It took her three days to complete. She said she chose this project because she wanted to try string art.



This photograph of a church entry is from Holden Bouilly of Minot. He used the lens of his camera with minor edits. He stated, "North Dakota is peaceful and beautiful. It reminds us that there is always 'hope' when things seem hard. Take some time to look around and see the beauty of where we live."

The Parent-Infant/School Age Outreach department utilized Zoom and Skype to provide home visits and consultations. They also created weekly handouts for schools. One was called "Consultation Chats" which provided information about the impact of hearing loss. The other was called "Staying Connected" and offered ideas of auditory and language building activities. Providers can use or share with families with whom they are providing on-line services.



The Parent-Infant/School Age Outreach Department also encouraged each other to take care of themselves with weekly meetings. They reached out to fellow staff members of the North Dakota School for the Deaf in a BINGO challenge entitled "CARE-O". Everyone was encouraged to do a variety of self-care activities to earn a bingo. All were invited to share recipes and photographs of their activities as a way to stay in touch with each other. Names of CARE-O (bingo) winners were entered in a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate.

Congratulations to the winner, Sabrina Schmidt.



Health Services



Greetings from Health Services,

I want to write today about **community**. According to dictionary.com, **community** is defined as "a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals." When I read this meaning of community, I immediately related to the heart shaped picture as many NDSD/RCDHH staff and students showed their support by wearing red to bring awareness to Heart Healthy Month.

This school year, NDSD/RCDHH students and staff came together for several events that promoted community. We held a winter coat donation and soup drive, celebrated Heart Healthy Month, and supported a student and his family during a difficult time.

And then came COVID-19.

COVID-19 shut school down suddenly and our students returned home. During that time our staff worked to assure conditions for employees were safe and that learning would continue to happen for our students. I think this is something to be very proud of.

When we return in the fall, some things may look different due to the pandemic, but I am certain that the feeling of **community** and fellowship will still be here. I know for myself and many others, we are ready to get back to our new normal.

Stay safe and be well,

Nurse Tracy





Dorm Life



Students get a 101 in drone flying.

Using the drone, we try to spell out NDSD with our bodies.



There is never a shortage of helpers when it comes to baking.





Learning new skills.

Students enjoyed the Movie Frozen II in open captions.



farm fieldtrip

Annie's House-Winter Park, Bottineau, ND



Dorm staff teach the importance of community involvement and acts of kindness.

Delivering baked goods to the local shelter.

Supporting community fundraisers.



North Dakota School For the Deaf

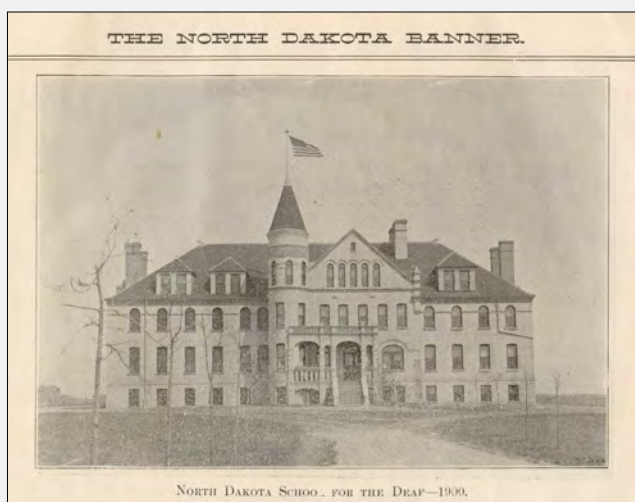
Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Banner Project

All issues of the **Banner**, from its inception in 1891, have been digitized through a partnership with the North Dakota State Library and are available to everyone online. What began as a weekly periodical is now an annual publication.

The **Banner** was originally established as a school newspaper that was printed weekly at the ND School for the Deaf and served several important purposes:

- to provide vocational job training for deaf students.
- to teach students how to draft and print the paper, as well as repair printing presses.
- to keep families informed of various events and activities that took place at the school while their children lived there.
- to publish students' school work for parents to read.
- to enable students to see their work in print and "infuse in them the love of reading."
- to deliver news about the school to Deaf communities across America.



To view **The Banner Collection**, please follow this link:

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

North Dakota School for the Deaf

Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing

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Adult Services	701-665-4401
Outreach/Parent-Infant Coordinator	701-665-4411
Communications/Interpreters	701-665-4423
Library / Resource Center	701-665-4433



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

If you would like to receive the **Banner** by e-mail,
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Thank you for your help.

The NDSD Banner

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GO GREEN



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