

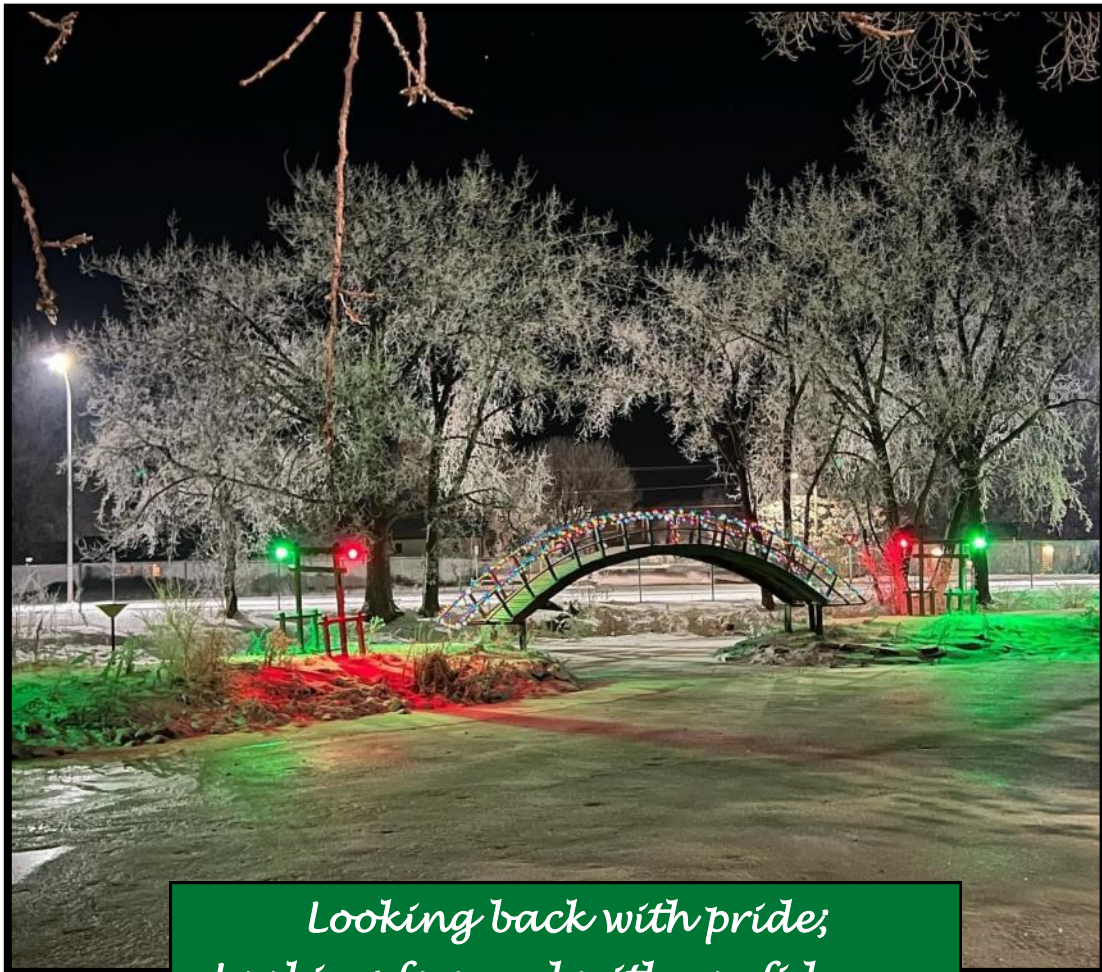
North Dakota School for the Deaf Resource Center

A School Without Walls

BANNER

2023-2024

Volume 134



*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,
Kirsten Baesler, 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 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.



Superintendent's Summary

"Seeing the best in children defines both them and us as lovable." This quote is from *Easy to Love, Difficult to Discipline* by Dr. Becky Bailey. This year, staff engaged in Conscious Discipline learning. We learned about our own brain states of Survival, Emotional, and Executive. We created a foundation of pausing and breathing to get ourselves into the higher centers of our brain by using the STAR method of Smiling, Taking a deep breath, And Relaxing. This is the first step in disciplining ourselves and our students. And it is the hardest. We also learned about empathy, routines and rituals, encouragement, jobs, consequences, safe spaces, and so much more. Conscious Discipline is an ongoing learning process! We have a few online learning spots available for

parents if anyone is interested in this training and learning. For the 2024-2025 school year, we will be focusing on The School Family. Stay tuned!

I spent a lot of time in the Residential Program again this year. The staff are amazing role models and have so much heart for our students. This year, they went on several field trips to Grand Forks, Minot, Webster, and more. Three students traveled with staff to the Rochester Institute of Technology, in New York State and participated in the Deaf Chess Tournament. Our younger student population grew by two students and our older students grew by one.

Our Adult Hearing Outreach Program provided trainings across the state. Their work is so important! An attorney recently called asking about appropriate accommodations for a client. Our staff jumped in with some questions and a list of accommodations to ensure access for the client. Another client expressed feelings of discrimination in the workplace due to their hearing difficulties and again, staff supported this person with resources and materials.

Our PIP and School-Aged Outreach continues to be strong serving families and districts across the state. Their focus in the Parent-Infant Program is to prevent and reduce the language deprivation that too many children who are deaf or hard of hearing experience. This year, we strengthened our partnerships with the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program and with Part C Early Intervention programs. I was also able to present at the Governor's Summit on Innovative Education, to Special Education Directors at the Leadership Institute, and to Superintendents at the North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders (NDCEL) about serving students who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired, and/or deafblind. Two of these presentations were with Dr. Lacey Long, the Director of the Dual Sensory Project. It is important to continue to share our expertise, knowledge, resources, and materials with others across the state and the PIP and School-Aged Outreach does this beautifully.

We completed our 2024-2027 Strategic Plan, which is a living document that details our aspirations, goals, and action plans for each department/program for the next 3-4 years. You can find it on our website soon in the About-Strategic Plans section.

Finally, save the dates for our 135th Anniversary and Alum Reunion which will be held July 10-13, 2025! This will be a phenomenal weekend event full of laughter, love, and memories; celebrations of friendships old and new; and opportunities to remember and celebrate those who have passed. Please plan to join us and share your memories of NDSD.

Enjoy this edition of the Banner. I am so proud of every person, both adults and students who work and learn here. I am humbled and honored to be part of Our Bulldog Family!

Peace Always and Wishing You Well,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna E Sorensen". The ink is dark and the signature is written on a light-colored background.

Donna E Sorensen

2023-2024 NDSD/RC Employees

Donna Sorensen, Superintendent

Education

Wendy Palmer*
Kim Shereck
Linda Koth
Kale Smith
Nicole McIvor
Jessica Fibelstad
Carrie Moen, para
Nancy Trottier, para
Patty Grohs, para
Wendy Henry, para

Communications

Jeanne Johnson
Turi Leiphon
Cindy Mays
Kayla Perez
Renaë Bitner
Lindsey Solberg-Herbel
Tammy Derrick

Residential

Scott Henry*
Megan George*
Stephanie Crowell-Goeser
Corene Dockter
Krysten Williams
William Smith
Suzanne Legacie
Karli Kepford

Business Office

Diane Frelich*
Shayla Ebertz
Shelly Laverdure

Adult Outreach

Kristen Vetter*
Kathy Frelich
Dawn Sauvageau
Karen Zinke

Health Services

Tracy Vilandre*
Lisa Elverud

Technology

Kerry Olson-Rysavy*

Facilities/Custodial

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

Food Service

Chris Eckes*
Tate Cichos
Emily Anderson
Karen Maloney
Katrina Wickware

Outreach

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

Lifeguards

Darwin Brokke

Transportation

Arvin Carlson
Scott Elvrum
Dan Trump
Cindy Mays

**Department Leader*



Welcome New Staff



Scott Henry-Director of Student Life

Greetings! My name is Scott Henry. I grew up in Phoenix, Arizona where I graduated from the Phoenix Day School for the Deaf. After a couple decades of working, mostly in construction and in the drafting field, I attended Gallaudet University and graduated in 2008 with two BA degrees in Secondary Education and History. After being in the education field for about 6 years, I went to work for Sorenson Communications in Colorado for 7 years. After that, I worked one year at Boeing in Washington State before landing here as the Director of Student Life. I love RVing and riding my Harley. I also enjoy working on home projects, so I am excited to move into our "new" house where I can work on some home projects.

Wendy Henry-Paraprofessional

Big hello! My name is Wendy Henry. I was born and raised in Vallejo, California. I went to the California School for the Deaf (CSD) in Berkley and graduated from CSD, Fremont. I have worked in various positions at Deaf Schools such as Paraprofessional and an ASL Mentor. I have 2 wonderful daughters and a son, who still live in California. My daughter got married and they now have a son and a daughter which titled me as a Grandmother! I love doing crafts, cooking, and gardening. I love going to beaches and traveling with our RV, especially in the mountains. I love visiting waterfalls. I also love to go riding with my husband on our Harley and seeing the sights.

We met through video phone in 2017, and tied the knot in 2018 in front of a waterfall in the Montana mountains. We look forward to working with the NDSD staff and students!

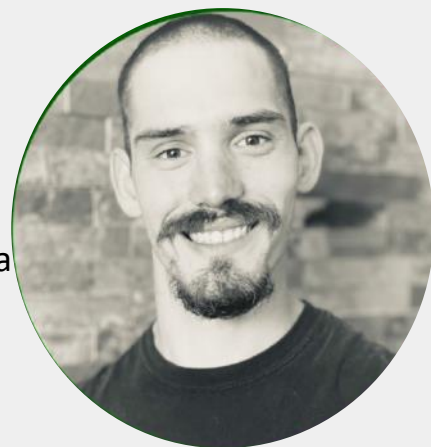


Lisa Elverud-Nurse

Hello Everyone, I'm Lisa Elverud and I joined NDSD Health Services last August as the evening nurse so most of you have probably seen me around. Let me tell you a little bit about myself, starting that I grew up on a farm in central ND with a huge love for animals. I got the best opportunity as a child to follow my mom to work every day to a basic care facility so that is where my love for nursing started. I grew up, met a boy and moved to his hometown of Devils Lake and have been here ever since. I have been married for 29 years with 3 grown children along with 1 grandson and 2 bonus granddaughters. I attended LRSC and received my nursing degree then later attended Mayville State for Business Administration. I'm so stoked to return for another school year at NDSD.

William Smith-Student Life Counselor

Hello, I'm an environmentally conscious Floridian man who loves nature. Born and raised in Tampa, Florida, I graduated from Brandon High School in 2014. I'm a passionate hiker with a goal to visit every National Park and its attractions. Filmography is a huge interest as well as Anime as it shares lots of lessons about life.



Krysten Williams-Student Life Counselor

Hi, I was born in Florida & raised in North Carolina. I graduated from Model Secondary School for the Deaf in 2009. I attended the Art Institute of Charlotte for my Bachelor of Science in Photography. I'm an avid reader and enjoy manga, graphic novels, and general works of fiction & non-fiction. I enjoy arts such as painting, drawing, and various mediums as well as time with video games during free time.

Retirees



Cindy Schneider, who held a position as custodian for 40 years retired in Sept. of 2023. Cindy was an incredible asset to NDSD/RC by keeping our buildings clean, operational, and esthetically pleasing. She is looking forward to more family time. We thank you for your dedication to NDSD/RC. Best wishes on your retirement. We miss you Cindy.

Nancy Trottier retired in May of 2024 with 41 years of service to NDSD/RC. During those years she has worn many hats, obtaining her Paraprofessional Certification in 2015. Nancy has been an incredible asset by providing instruction and guidance to our students. She has been an important part of our team and will be missed greatly. Nancy looks forward to spending more time with her grandkids, golfing & traveling.



Thank You for 41 Years of service!



Deaf Awareness Week 2023



HOMECOMING

 **GO FIREBIRDS!**







December was a busy month with countdown to Christmas Break.

The Middle School Students were able to sneak out for an afternoon and have a blast on the ice.



NDSD/RC Staff Christmas Tree Sock Drive

We were able to donate a big box full of warm, soft and cozy socks for all ages to Dakota Prairie Community Action Agency.

Community Action Agencies are non-profit agencies that develop programs and provide services designed to assist low income and disadvantaged households in addressing unmet needs and barriers of poverty.

Thanks again for your support!
The Health and Wellness Committee

TOE-TALLY AMAZING!



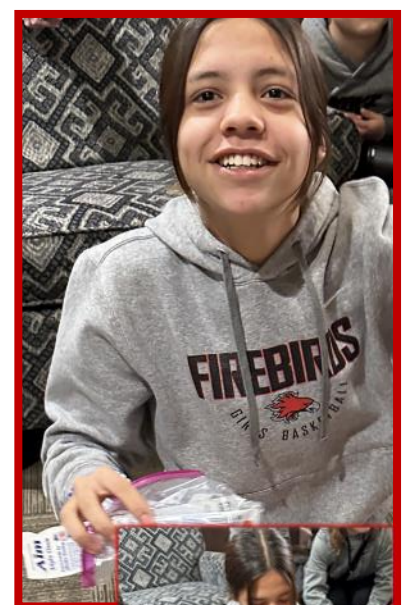
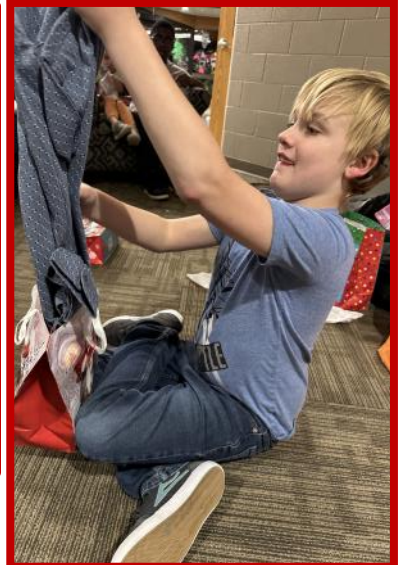
Merry Grinchmas

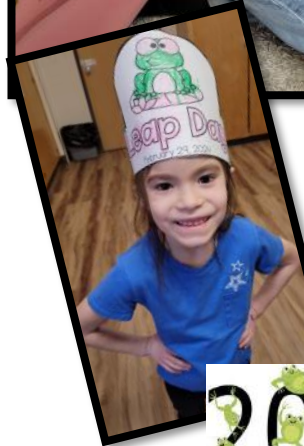




Christmas in the dorm.









Library Lines

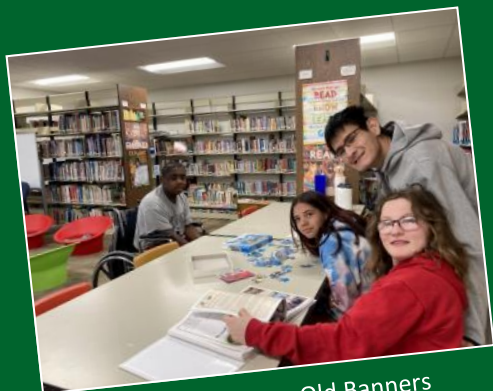
"...The most valuable thing in my wallet is my library card." – Laura Bush

Greetings from Jessica the Librarian!

This was my first year at NDSD, and I was thrilled to meet all of the students. They helped me learn so much. The library was closed for building repairs for the ENTIRE fall semester, and we FINALLY got to move in on January 26th. Being able to browse the shelves and choose books is always the best way to discover new things, and the students picked out some really exciting stories. They found amazing new books as well as rediscovered classics that haven't been looked at for a long time. There were a lot of smiles in the library, during stories, activities and discussions. Thanks to all of the students for making this such a great year for the library.

We had visits from ASL students again this year, and they had a lot of fun with the Preschoolers. We also had an interpreting student sit in on a few classes.

Some of the holidays we observed in the library were Jaguar Day, Fairy Tale Day, Inventor's Day, Frog Month and Earth Day.



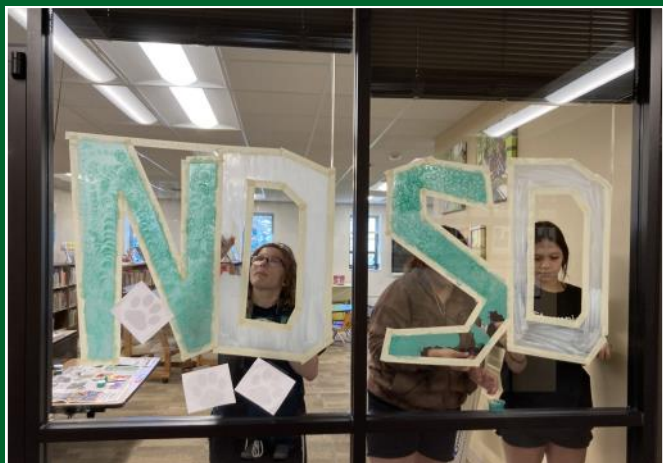
Students Reading Old Banners



Frog Month



Earth Day Suncatchers



Painting the windows for the last week of school



Making Slime

Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss



You're off to
GREAT
PLACES!
Today is your day!
Your
mountain
is waiting
So... get on your
WAY!





School Trip to Turtle Mountain Tribal Council

On October 30, 2023, students and staff went to visit with the Turtle Mountain Tribal Council. This special visit was arranged by Martin Trottier, the dad of one of our students. His niece, Jacey, works in the Tribal Chairman's office and worked with us to schedule a special event. One of our students also has an uncle, Craig Lunday and grandfather, Lynn Gourneau on the Tribal Council.

When we arrived, we were warmly welcomed by both Martin and Jamie Azure, the Tribal Chairman. Mr. Azure pointed out that many from the Turtle Mountain Tribe have attended school at NDSD and that our partnership and work together is important for the Turtle Mountain Tribe and for deaf and hard of hearing students attending NDSD. The students also got to preview the TMBCI's Haunted Hallway, which was both fun and scary!



Students presented gifts to the Tribal Council. The Tribal Council presented gift bags to each student that included candy and a hardcover book called *My Powerful Hair* written by Carole Lindstrom and illustrated by Steph Littlebird. It's an important read about culture, traditions, and memories. Our visit to the Tribal Council created powerful memories for us and we hope to make our visit an annual tradition.

Kale's Pre-K Class



Brandie



Lylah



Levine

Tell me and I
FORGET.
Teach me and I may
REMEMBER.
Include me and I will
LEARN.



Noah



Kale



MRS. KOTH'S CLASSROOM—2023-24



Ajai – Kindergarten



Aurie – Kindergarten



Melissa – Kindergarten



Mrs. Koth



Dane – Kindergarten



Dean – Kindergarten



Izabelle-1st Grade

Mrs. McIvor & Mrs. Shereck's Class Rocks



Mrs. McIvor



Mrs. Shereck

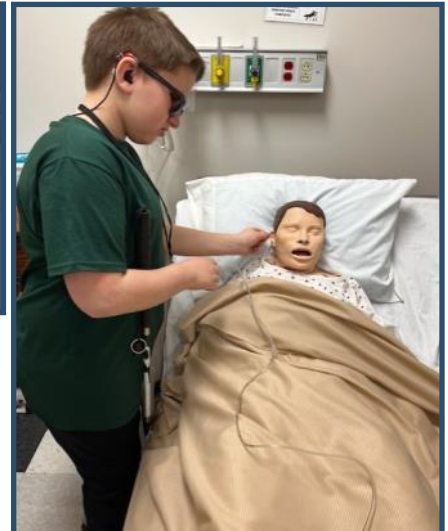
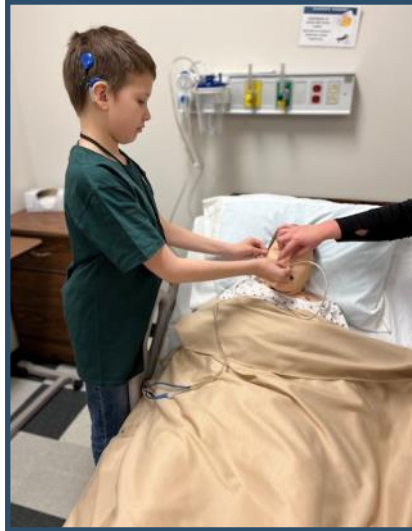


Public Library field trip promoting literacy.



Middle School Students attended

scrubs CAMP



Mmmm...Twisted Shamrocks for St. Patrick's Day



We had fun making
Twisted Shamrocks,
and got to share
with a few
NDSD Staff.



6th, 7th & 8th
grade students
were all smiles
for another fun
school year at



Drayton, Payton, Landon & Kinley



Jordan, Jon, Ally, Bailee & Keron

DLHS Students
attended a
portion of
their day in
Mrs. Palmer's
Classroom.



Your Adult Outreach Team



Thank you for another fun and fulfilling year for our Adult Outreach team and the clients we serve!

Whether we were meeting with clients, our statewide monthly Hearing Loss Resource Groups, or presenting to medical facilities, nursing homes, senior centers, or law enforcement agencies, we were busy and having fun! Besides assisting and visiting with our clients, our favorite thing to do is help spread awareness about hearing loss and offer solutions as well as collaborating and being liaisons for other agencies services.

Feel free to reach out to any one of us with any questions you may have about our services for adults that are Deaf and Hard of Hearing in North Dakota.

Kristen Vetter, Adult Outreach Coordinator

Grand Forks

kristen.vetter@k12.nd.us

701-230-8701

Dawn Sauvageau, Adult Outreach Specialist

Fargo

dawn.sauvageau@k12.nd.us

701-351-0207

Tammy Derrick, Communication & Advocacy Coordinator

Bismarck

tammy.derrick@k12.nd.us

701-354-3033 (VP)



Kathy Frelich, Adult Outreach Specialist

Devils Lake

kathy.frelich@k12.nd.us

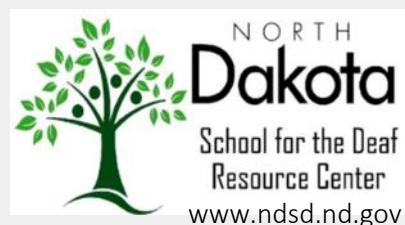
701-665-4416

Karen Zinke, Adult Outreach Specialist

Turtle Lake

karen.zinke@k12.nd.us

701-516-2464



Parent-Infant and School-Age

The North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center Parent-Infant and School-Age Outreach Department continues to provide services to families and schools with children impacted by hearing loss. Fully staffed with the addition of Jodi Scheeler in the Minot office, consultations to schools around the state are offered along with completion of several assessments.

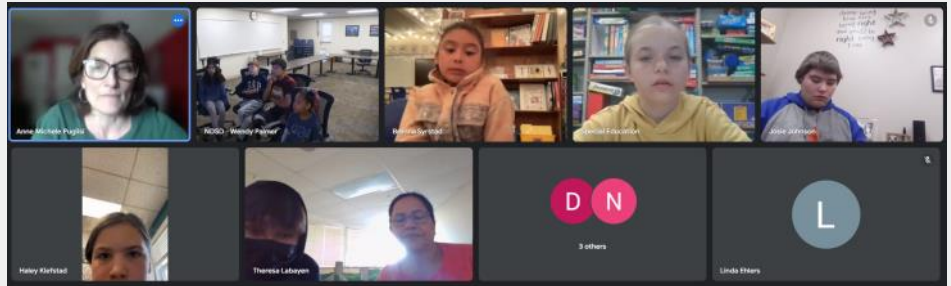
The Outreach department also sponsored their regular yearly events such as the Regional Pumpkin Patch Family Days, Virtual Santa, "Growing Up Deaf and Hard of Hearing" virtual meetings and Family Engagement event called Family Understanding and Networking (F.U.N.).

This year, the North Dakota School for the Deaf worked with an on-line company called Amptify. It is a program that was designed for adults with new hearing aids and cochlear implants to do auditory training. They agreed to do a pilot program for ten students in the state of North Dakota of various ages and hearing devices. This is their first time working with children with the program.

The department also hosted a table at several conferences and presented at various events throughout the year. A variety of sign classes are offered to meet needs around the state as well as the continuing of the Deaf Mentor Program completing its first year.



Fully staffed, the Parent-Infant and School-Age Outreach Department, left to right, Tami Iszler, Jodi Scheeler, Ashley Martin, Lana Zimbelman, Nicole Swartwout, Denise Marback and Linda Ehlers.



The School-Age Outreach Department worked with Amplify, an on-line auditory training company, to do a pilot program with ten students across the state. The students gave about an hour a week for 12 weeks to participate in the program then gave feedback in an on-line meeting.



Outreach Department



Before winter break, the North Dakota School for the Deaf Outreach Team hosts a virtual visit to Santa who has cochlear implants and can communicate using voice or sign language. Some visits are held while children are at school or at home.



The PIP/School-Age Outreach Department continually work to keep up on current best practice for children with differentiated hearing. They learn about new assessments, new apps,

new strategies to keep hearing devices on young ears, etc. They meet monthly to learn and plan the events held throughout the year and assist in creating strategies for assisting the parents and schools who serve children impacted with hearing loss.

The PIP/School-Age Outreach Department hosts several regional events around the state in which families and children with differentiated hearing can come meet and have fun together.



We are so proud and excited for our amazing Parent-Infant and School-Age Outreach specialist, Denise Marback. We feel lucky to have such a wonderful team of Teachers of the Deaf. Denise Marback received her 45 years of service to NDSD and was honored

by receiving the 10th Annual High-5 Award from North Dakota Hands & Voices. A parent shared, "I was so afraid of making the wrong choices. In that crazy storm, Denise became our compass. While she has never told me directly what to do, she has helped sort out the information, seek out resources, has given advice, and helped me connect to other parents that are on a similar journey." Congratulations, Denise!



Janet DesGeorges of National Hands & Voices was the featured speaker at the annual North Dakota School for the Deaf Family Conference held May 3, 2024 in Devils Lake. She discussed Educational Advocacy and Educational Excellence. Former NDSD student, Jaylee Anderson and her mother, Deanna, shared their story about getting services that Jaylee needed to successfully finish high school. Visiting children joined the NDSD students in the classroom and toddlers were supervised by the Parent-Infant Program staff.



Student



White Horse Hill



Water Park Fun



Webster School Pumpkin Patch



NDSD/RC Residential Students attend
Rochester Institute of Technology Chess Tournament in Rochester, NY.



Life

D
O
R
M
☺
F
U
N



Painting Class with Shari



Student Promotions





Stephanie Crowell-Goeser - 3 yrs



Turi Leipon - 10 yrs



Karen Maloney - 15 yrs



Linda Koth - 25 yrs



Jeanith Johnson & Renae Bitner - 30 yrs



Denise Marback - 45 yrs



Denise Marback receives the
North Dakota Hands & Voices
High 5 Teacher Award

CAMP ROCKS

The annual summer camp sponsored by the North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center was held this year, June 10-14, 2024, 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 **"Camp Rocks."** Campers, age 7 years to graduation, spent some of the time playing rock-themed games and activities. Campers also enjoyed a variety of typical recreational events such as watersports, climbing the 50 foot tower, target sports, a dance, s'mores and arts and crafts. They also spent an afternoon at the Raging Rivers Waterpark in Mandan.



Back row: Sophia Schoeder, Kodee Klefstad, Landon Zimmerman, Samantha Ramorez (volunteer), Kinley Klefstad, Linda Ehlers (Director), Ashley Martin (Counselor), Jonathan Red Fox, Emily Anderson (Counselor), Haley Klefstad (Counselor). Front row: Grace Weed, Hunter Landreville, Bailey Hafner, Drayton Bauste, Silas Marrufo, Blake Zimmerman, Mila Stockie, Paul Cortez, Jr., Traeson Anderson, and Elizabeth Hoffer.



The [North Dakota State Library](#) (NDSL) has formed a digital collection partnership with its sister agency, the [North Dakota School for the Deaf](#) (NDSD). 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 NDSD, 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 NDSD 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 NDSD 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:
<http://digitalhorizonsonline.org/digital/collection/p16921coll12>



N O R T H
Dakota
School for the Deaf
Resource Center
<http://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	701-858-3357
Communications/Interpreters	701-665-4400
Library/Resource Center	701-665-4433

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

Shelly Laverdure

NDSD/RC

1401 College Drive N

Devils Lake, ND 58301

shelly.laverdure@k12.nd.us

1-800-887-2980 or 701-665-4405



Thank you for your help.

**The NDSD Banner
ND School for the Deaf
Resource Center**

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



GO GREEN

**See back inside cover for
information on how to receive the
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