



# Inside Track

A Model District Where Students Want To Be  
*Home of the Railroaders!*



The Durand Middle School "Student of the Month" is Emily Cooney. Emily is a 7th grader and is the daughter of Timothy and Sarah Cooney. Emily likes drawing, writing, and playing her trumpet. She also enjoys learning about foreign cultures and maps. In the future she would like to be an Epidemiologist or a linguistics major.



Students were treated to ice cream sandwiches, courtesy of the Bancroft Lioness Club. The Lioness Club rewarded the students for participating in the annual food drive during the month of December.



Malik Williams of the State of Michigan's Cyber Safety Initiative posed with a few 5th graders after his presentation on bullying and Internet safety on February 4.



## FFA Leadership Competition

The Durand High School's FFA teams competed in leadership contests at New Lothrop on February 5th. Ten of twelve teams advanced to the regional competition in Corunna on February 19th at 4PM. Good luck at regionals!



## Mosaic Murals at DHS

Advanced students in Mr. Shankster's Durand High School Intermediate Art class have worked for two months on three handmade ceramic tile mosaic murals. The mosaics were presented to Mr. Zuehlke this past Wednesday. They will soon be installed in the principal's and front office at Durand High School. Great job!

## DHS Band Solo and Ensemble Festival

This past Saturday, band students from Durand and other schools in our area performed at the MSBOA District 5 Solo and Ensemble Festival at Owosso High School. All students performed either solos or ensembles and received comments from a master teacher and adjudicator.

The following students earned a Superior, or First Division rating, and qualified to perform at MSBOA State Solo and Ensemble Festival in late March: Daniel Greeson (flute solo); Giorgi Dean (euphonium solo); Marc Rose (tuba solo); and Ashley Stiles (trumpet solo).

The following students earned an Excellent, or Second Division rating: Katy Woerner (flute solo); Amber Putnam (clarinet solo); Nick Mazzara (clarinet solo); Cameron Counterman, Isabella Friedman and Kaitlyn Hendrickson (clarinet trio); Marc Rose and Levi Allen (tuba duet); Giorgi Dean and Rachel Kozlowski (euphonium duet); and Katie Monroe (flute solo).

Congratulations to all!

The 4th Grade 2015 Math Facts Tournament Champions have been crowned! This year, Collin Comstock placed 1st, Tommy Hendrickson placed 2nd and Dylan McDonald placed 3rd. Great job to all of our 4th grade mathematicians!



## DHS Madrigals Competition

The Madrigals successfully completed their Solo and Ensemble competition at Swartz Creek High School. They received a "Good" rating, earning 24 out of 30 points possible. Four student soloists competed. Katie Shire (12th), Serenity Hawley (12th), and Morgan Miller (10th) all received "Excellent" ratings, earning 25 to 26 out of 30 points. Rachel Austin (12th) received a "Good" rating on her solo, earning 20 out of 30 points possible. All students involved, whether Madrigals or soloists, have worked very hard on their pieces since the beginning of December.

## DHS Students of the Month

The following students have been chosen by DHS staff members as Railroaders of the Month. Congratulations to 8th grader Haley Raupp, 9th grader Katie McMillan, 10th grader Sierra Woolworth, 11th grader Christian Huffman and 12th grader Ty Hart.

## Pancake Dinner

Mark your Calendar for the Annual  
Robert Kerr Community Pancake Dinner

When: Thursday, March 5, 2015  
Time: 5:00-6:30

Durand Summer Baseball/Softball, AYSO Soccer, Durand Youth Football and Cheerleading representatives will be on-site for registrations and/or information on the youth programs.

## Superintendent News

As a new superintendent in Durand, I could tell right away that the community was proud of many aspects of the schools, ranging from the small class sizes in the elementary schools to some of the outstanding new and traditionally strong programs at the secondary level. The high school has always been renowned for its music and band, woods, FCCLA and incredible participation in the FFA program. However, you might be interested to know that there are other opportunities for students that are new or soon to be implemented at Durand Area High School.

The high school has been ramping up and promoting opportunities in dual enrollment programs where high school students take college courses and accumulate credits while still in high school.

Next year, in cooperation with the Shiawassee RESD, Durand students will now be able to elect to enter, by the end of the third marking period as a junior, into an

early college program This allows the student to commit to a partnership where they would be working toward an associate's degree. This means that the student would have a senior year with dedicated college work, as well as a "thirteenth year" of a combined high school/college experience. There will be opportunities for 11th graders in the future to access the program making it a three year opportunity. The concept essentially accelerates the student's opportunity to begin college and potentially achieve an associate's degree within one year beyond the student's graduation year.

There are many benefits to this program for students. The primary advantage for a student and our Durand families is that the school district would be paying for the student to complete an associate's degree that would transfer to a four-year college or university. By starting during their senior year, they would only need one additional year in the program to basically walk away with two years' worth of college credit. Again...paid for by Durand Area Schools. John VanWagoner, Associate Superintendent at the RESD,

has been able to negotiate reduced tuition rates with Lansing Community College, Baker College, and Central Michigan University, which makes it feasible for the district to participate in this program. (Other college or university options may also be a potential option with students paying a partial cost). These reduced, negotiated rates are in a blended format held in Shiawassee County for county students. These are not "on campus" rates. Students wishing to continue on with the college or university would obviously be well positioned to continue on toward graduation.

This is a great opportunity for the students in Durand Area Schools. We all know that the cost of a college education has been skyrocketing...even before I completed my undergraduate work the costs seemed insurmountable. For more information regarding this new opportunity, please contact our high school or visit our website at <http://www.durand.k12.mi.us/> Sincerely,

Craig McCrumb, Superintendent, Durand Area Schools.