

Inspire
ENGAGE
EMPOWER



*Committed to inspiring excellence,
igniting curiosity and unlocking potential for all.*



DUNELAND SCHOOLS

601 West Morgan Avenue, Chesterton, Indiana 46304
(219) 983-3600
www.duneland.k12.in.us

A MESSAGE from the SUPERINTENDENT



We are grateful to the Duneland community for partnering with us to help define the skills, attitudes, and credentials students need to excel in a 21st Century workforce. In turn, we take our responsibility seriously to deliver world-class educational opportunities for our students. We are honored by the trust and continued support as we continue to focus on academic achievement and growth for ALL children.

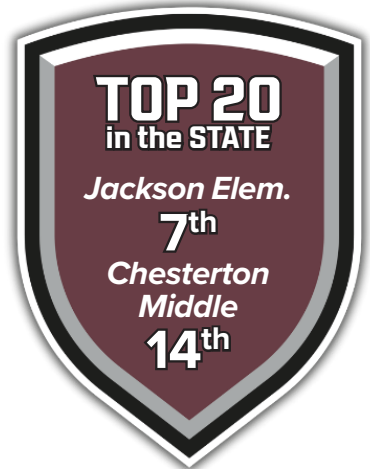
Student performance continues to drive school and district initiatives. Chesterton High School was recently named the Best High School in Northwest Indiana by the NWITimes with the Class of 2023 boasting a 98%+ graduation rate, 40% participating in an award-winning internship and pre-service program, and one out of three graduating seniors completing one year of college while still at CHS.

Student academic achievement at the elementary, intermediate and middle level (K-8) continues to flourish. Duneland students ranked 11th out of all public school districts in the state on Spring 2023 ILEARN English/Language Arts and Math assessments. Jackson Elementary fourth grade students (7th) and Chesterton Middle School 7th grade student (14th) achievement scores were in the Top 20 schools in the state at their respective grade levels.

Our schools add tremendous value to the community and your continued investment and support significantly impacts how we will prepare our students for the future.

Thank you,

Dr. Chip Pettit
Superintendent of Schools



DSC STRATEGIC PLAN

In the Spring of 2020, a team of over 50 Duneland School Corporation (DSC) stakeholders helped create a new Strategic Plan for the district. On Monday, June 8, 2020, the DSC Strategic Plan 2020-2023 was approved by the Duneland School Board of Trustees.

The development of the Strategic Plan was a comprehensive process that brought together teachers, students, staff, parents, and community stakeholders for input on the future of Duneland. Five goal areas were developed based on data available within the corporation and from survey results and focus group interviews conducted in the spring of 2020. Collecting feedback from a wide variety of sources was instrumental to the process. The school corporation vision, mission, core values, and goals were redefined and action plans were developed.

The Strategic Plan has provided a transparent roadmap for how the Duneland Schools will prepare students for their individual futures in a constantly changing world. In the fall of 2023, the school corporation will update the plan, to begin in 2024. The development and implementation of the Strategic Plan is a shared commitment with the community. If you would like to participate in the process, please contact Amanda Hicks, Duneland School Corporation Executive Assistant, at ahicks@duneland.k12.in.us or (219) 983-3600.

DUNELAND SCHOOL CORPORATION

601 W Morgan Avenue • Chesterton, Indiana 46304 • 219.983.3600

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Chip Pettit, *Superintendent of Schools*
Robert McDermott, *Assistant Supt. / Operations*
Lynn Kwilas, *Assistant Supt. / CFO*
Amanda Hicks, *Executive Assistant*

DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Ben Armstrong, *Transportation*
Donna Biggs, *Teaching & Learning, K-12*
Christy Jarka, *Trojan Learning Center*
Regan Keating, *Human Resources*
Mike Okeley, *Support Services*
Bridget Martinson, *PR & Marketing*
Aaron Prybylla, *Business*
Doug Taylor, *Technology*
Tammy Watkins, *Child Nutrition*
Kevin Zeck, *Asst. of Teaching & Learning, K-12*



BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Kirk Redman, *Member*
Brandon Kroft, *Vice President*
Tim McGinty, *Secretary*
Beth Mehling, *Member*
Alayna Lightfoot Pol, *President*

DUNELAND

TEACHING & LEARNING

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTORS

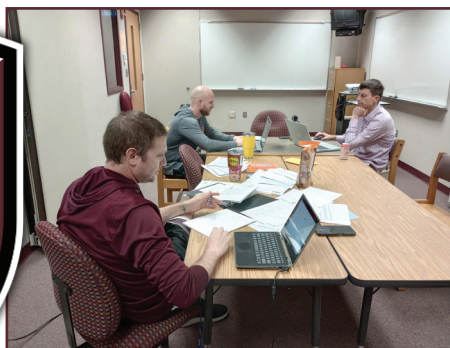
Donna Biggs, *Teaching & Learning, K-12*
Kevin Zeck, *Asst. Director of Teaching & Learning, K-12*
Christy Jarka, *Director of Trojan Learning Center*

COORDINATORS

Ezra Burke, *Exceptional Learning, 9-12*
Nikki Saulters, *Exceptional Learning, 5-8*
Lydia Estridge, *Exceptional Learning, Pre K-4*
Sara Atkinson, *Instructional Technology*
Jen Bognar, *MTSS*

GUARANTEED VIABLE CURRICULUM

Duneland is well underway in building its Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum (GVC) across all content areas K-12. The GVC ensures that students participate in learning that has prioritized standards, engaging curriculum, and aligned assessments. This structure is what guarantees equitable outcomes for all DSC students.

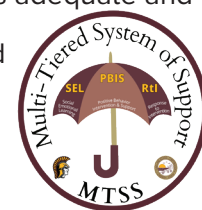


PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Additionally, teachers have been participating in Professional Learning Communities (PLC). The establishment of PLC time has provided teachers with time to collaborate both vertically and horizontally with their peers to consistently monitor student outcomes. The PLC philosophy is intentionally aligned to support the GVC.

Duneland's Multi-Tiered System of Support provides adequate and equitable tiered support for all students. Our MTSS approach intentionally encompasses the whole child and is aligned with the district mission and vision.

This year we implemented the Branching Minds platform in grades K-8 to organize and analyze student data to identify student needs and facilitate the implementation of targeted interventions. The high school is developing a system to gather information for student insight cards to highlight a student's interests, skills, mentor and career goals that can be used to further college and career pursuits. We also expanded our crisis prevention training (CPI) which has helped staff become more proactive in preventing disruptive behavior and responding to students in crisis.



As we enter the 2023-2024 academic year, the Duneland School Corporation is making strides committing to the main tenet of our vision: "Supporting all students through the development of the whole child." DSC is proud to welcome all Exceptional Learning teachers to the staff as one family. As a whole, the Duneland community is committed to adopting a more inclusive atmosphere in which we can "inspire excellence, ignite curiosity and unlock potential for all." We look forward with anticipation to growing our capacity to serve. One aspect to improving support and services has been Duneland's addition of Exceptional Learning Coordinators to the team. We will have three Exceptional Learning Coordinators who will be based at each instructional level who will also work collaboratively to support the needs of the district. They will provide guidance and coaching to staff, address special education needs within buildings, assist the director and be a presence in some case conferences. We look forward to the variety of perspectives and expertise that they will bring to Duneland in their new roles. We thank the community for their tremendous support as we work to provide equitable experiences to all learners.

The Department of Teaching & Learning is ensuring that a solid foundation is set early on and then that foundation is built upon each year thereafter, providing students with a rigorous education K-12.

TROJAN LEARNING CENTER

EARLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



As a result of the strategic plan, based on research and findings during the strategic planning process, DSC recognized that learning begins at birth and early learning is critical to the future success for children. As a result, a Birth-to-School initiative was identified as a priority and an action team was created.

In January of 2022, DSC introduced the first early learning program, the Duneland Early Learning HUB to the community. Housed in the Trojan Learning Center (TLC), the HUB is a place for caregivers and their children to learn, play and grow together. The term HUB refers to the program's vision to Help, Understand and Build connections and relationships between families, educators, and the community. It's the hub of resources for Duneland's 0 to 5 year old children and their caregivers.

DSC's Early Learning HUB is a free program to all Duneland families with young children from prenatal to kindergarten entry. While not a preschool where families drop their children off for child care, it is a place for caregivers and their children to learn while playing together. The HUB provides young Trojans and their families with activities, resources and educational opportunities for children and caregivers.

DSC's Early Learning HUB has been one of the most successful and growing initiatives in Duneland. The HUB is built upon the concepts that caregivers are the child's first teacher, learning begins at birth, and that children learn through play. Thoughtful planning and attention to the community's unique needs has made the HUB a 'go-to resource' for Duneland families.



During the 2022-2023 school year, the HUB was proud to have approximately 170 families with over 200 children enrolled, and also welcomed almost 60 professional hosts, visitors, volunteers and community guests. These individuals presented and discussed a variety of topics during the Play and Learn Sessions, Trojan Tykes and Trojans Together. The HUB also served as a location for Chesterton High School's internship program.



The Duneland School Corporation's Birth-to-School and Early Learning initiative continues to grow. In August 2023, DSC's Developmental Preschool and Speech will move into the TLC. The developmental preschool classrooms shall meet the needs of 3 - 5 year old students (not yet enrolled in Kdg) with an Individual Education Plan (IEP). In addition, DSC is excited to welcome the Duneland YMCA Half-Day Preschool to the TLC. Duneland Schools has partnered with Duneland Y Preschool to offer learning for our youngest and future Chesterton Trojans. The Duneland Y will offer half-day preschool for a fee to registered families.

To learn more about the DSC Early Learning Birth-to-School HUB or Developmental preschool / preschool speech call 219-983-3473. For more information about the Duneland Y preschool call 219-926-4204. These early learning opportunities, now housed under one roof, should provide the ultimate social, academic and learning environment while celebrating positive peer interactions. All these early learning initiatives will help children get students ready for kindergarten by focusing on foundational skills, self help skills, and social skills.

TROJAN LEARNING CENTER

601 W Morgan Ave (Door 9) • Chesterton, IN 46304 • 219-983-3473

LONG-TERM CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

In 2021, the Duneland School Corporation began planning for large-scale capital improvements across the district. Construction began in 2022 and is expected to be completed during the 2024-25 school year.

- New construction at Yost Elementary School
- Renovations at four elementary schools - Bailly, Brummitt, Jackson, Liberty
- Renovations and new additions at two intermediate/middle schools - Liberty and Westchester

When completed, all K-8 schools will have updated mechanical, electrical, and plumbing infrastructure and safety and security enhancements that will provide a modern learning environment for students.

WESTCHESTER



Intermediate/Middle School Improvements

- Safety and Security Updates
- Grade Level Houses - Separate 5/6 and 7/8
- Student Support Areas
- Cafeteria Services
- Appropriate Site Traffic Planning
- Individualized Instruction Spaces

Additional Opportunity Areas:

- Performing Arts Area
- Update Special Needs Areas
- Media Center as "Hub of Learning"
- Maker Space/STEM and Robotics
- Athletics



LIBERTY

Elementary Schools Improvements

- Safety and Security Updates
- Student Cubbies
- Extended Learning Spaces
- Small Group (SGI)
- Individualized Instruction Spaces
- Large Group Instruction Space
- Media Center as “Hub of Learning”
- Maker Space/STEM
- Restroom Wash Stations in Corridors
- Student Support Areas
 - ▶ Counselor’s Office
 - ▶ Calming Room



YOST



BRUMMITT



BAILLY

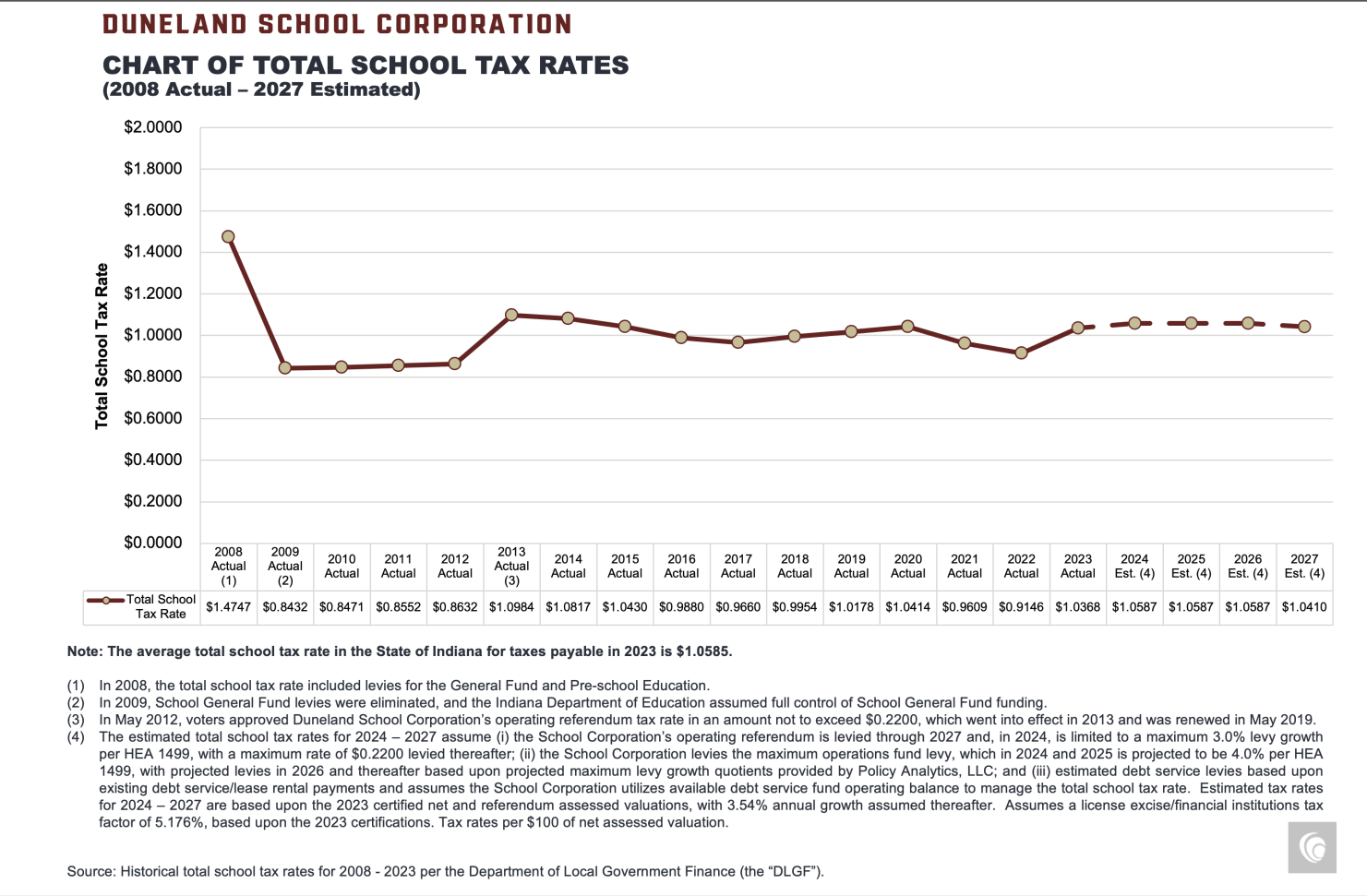


LIBERTY

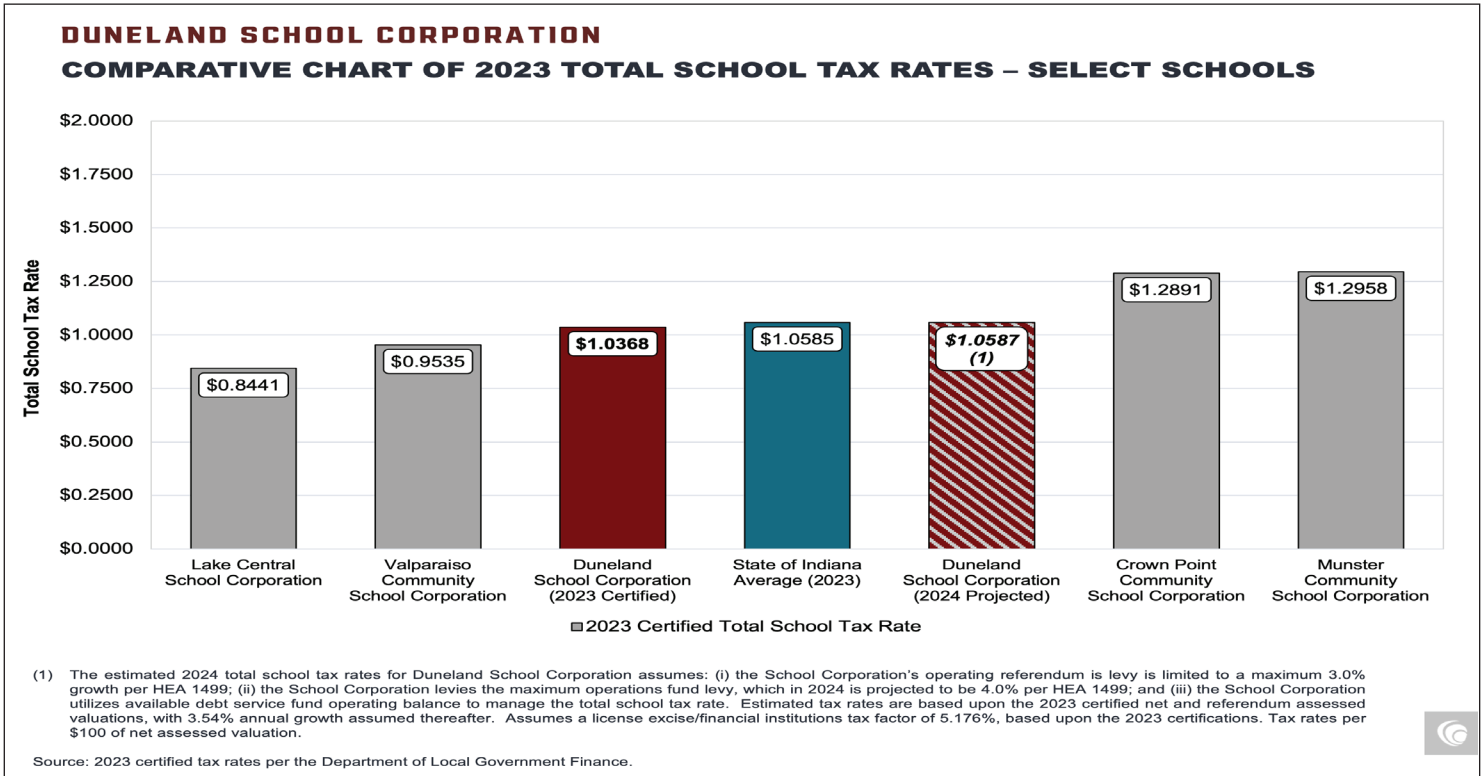


JACKSON

The long-term capital improvements currently underway have not increased the school corporation tax rate. This is due to debt from the construction of Chesterton High School (1999) being replaced by the current construction that will provide 20-year facility solutions at all K-8 schools.

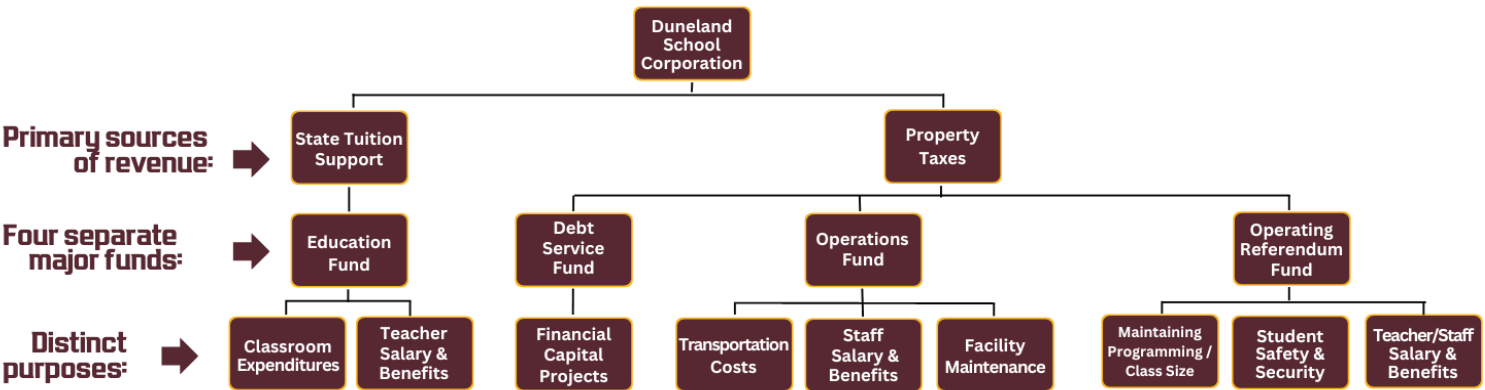


When compared with the state average and local districts with comparable communities and programming for students, the Duneland School Corporation continues to provide a tremendous return on investment for taxpayers.



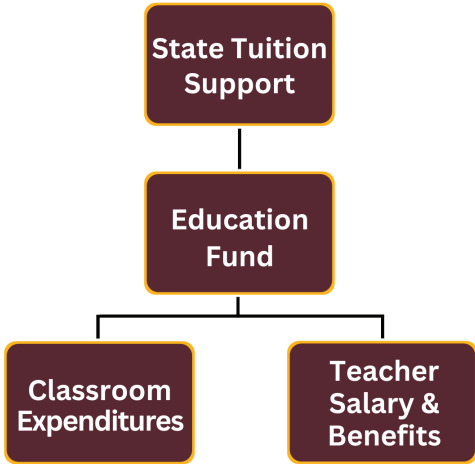
SCHOOL FINANCE

The Duneland School Corporation receives funding to operate schools from two primary sources: tuition support from the State of Indiana and local property taxes.



STATE TUITION SUPPORT

In the Spring of 2023, the Indiana State Legislature approved a 2-year budget that allocated 47% of all state dollars to K-12 public education. This budget has been championed by many as the most money ever given to public schools. While this is technically true, this is a 6% decrease from the previous budget in (2021) allocated 50% of all state dollars to K-12 public education.

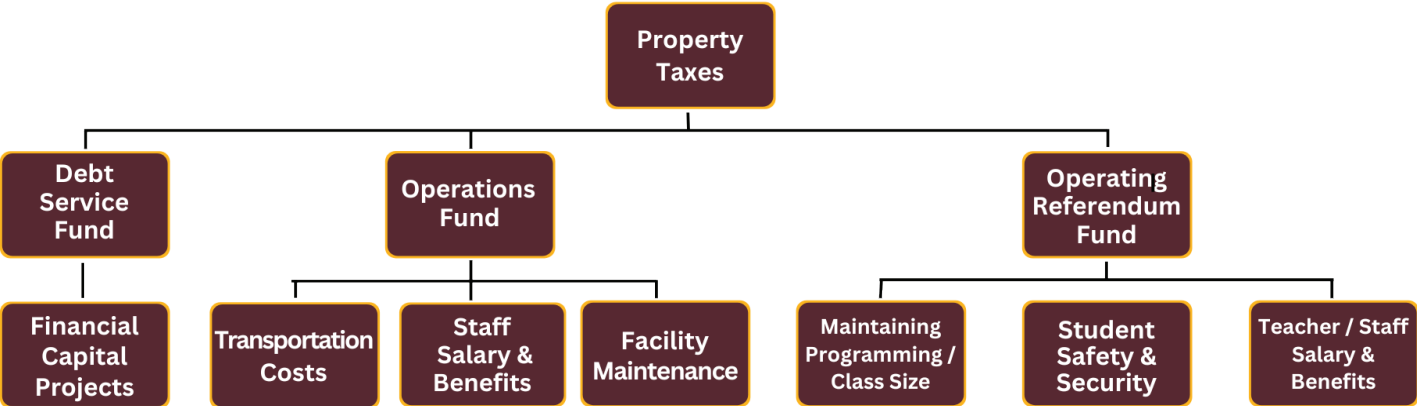


EDUCATION FUND

The Education Fund makes-up 46% of the entire school corporation budget and is used to fund educational programs, classroom expenditures, and teacher and building-level support staff salaries. The State of Indiana will provide the Duneland School Corporation with an approximately 5.5% increase in 2024 and an approximately 1.4% in 2025 from the previous two-year budget. The increase will not keep up with 10-11% inflation we have seen over the past couple of years, much less allow for salary increases for teachers and staff.

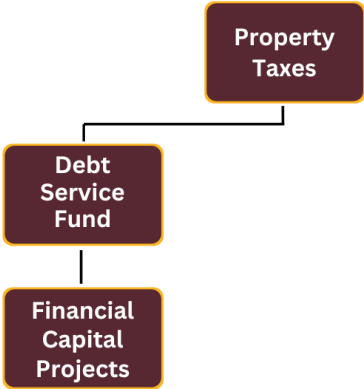
PROPERTY TAX SUPPORT

The amount of property taxes school corporations can levy for non-academic operations, maintenance, transportation, and capital improvement programs is determined by the State-mandated maximum levy growth quotient and reduced by the circuit breaker, which limits taxpayer liability to a fixed percentage (1% for residential, 2% rental and 3% business/commercial) of the value of their property. Duneland taxpayers likely noticed an increase to their tax bill this Spring. This is due to property values increasing. As depicted in the chart on page 7, Duneland School Corporation has committed to keeping the total property tax rate for residents flat.



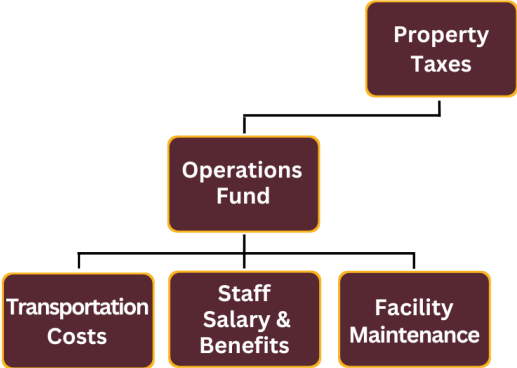
DEBT SERVICE FUND

The debt service fund makes-up 13% of the school corporation budget and is used to finance capital improvements throughout the district. In 2021, the school corporation replaced the debt from the CHS new construction in 1999 with safety, security, modernization, and improvement projects at all K-8 schools. The financing for these projects did not raise the tax rate and will provide students with safe and modern learning environments for the next 20 years.



OPERATIONS FUND

The operations fund makes up 30% of the school corporation budget and is used for maintenance, transportation and all staff (bus drivers, custodians, maintenance, central administrative services). In 2023-24, Duneland Schools will employ over 800 total staff members in support of over 5,800 students.

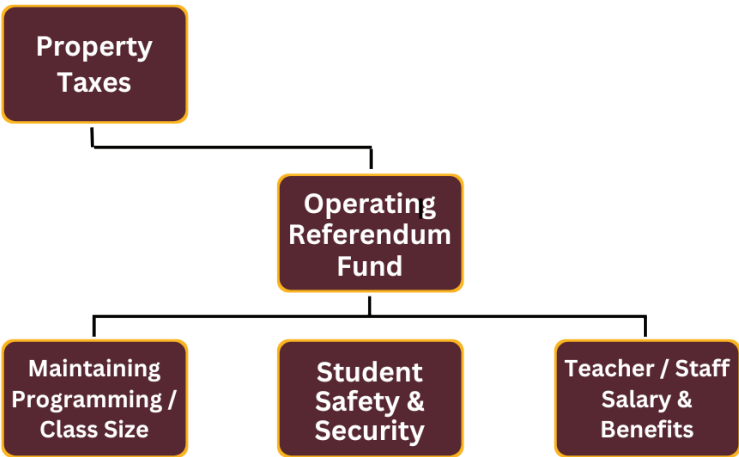


OPERATING REFERENDUM FUND

Due to the lack of financial support from the State of Indiana, the Duneland Community has supported the school corporation with a twenty-two cents (\$0.22) tax levy originally approved in 2012, and continued in 2019, for the purpose of maintaining the current educational and operational programs in the school corporation. This general operating fund referendum makes-up 11% of the district budget and will be considered for renewal in 2026.

The school corporation is appreciative of this community support and has utilized the extra resources for the following:

- Low Class Sizes
- Instructional Support - Reading Specialists & Instructional Coaches
- School Counselors in Every School
- Registered Nurses in Every School
- 6 School Resource Officers throughout the District
- International Baccalaureate Diploma Program at CHS
- Dunes Learning Center Programs
- Extracurricular Program Support



INSPIRE / ENGAGE / EMPOWER



CHESTERTON

HIGH SCHOOL

Chesterton High School inspires and empowers all students to achieve their full potential while cultivating a safe, equitable, and collaborative learning community.



PRINCIPAL
Mr. Brent Martinson



ASSOC. PRINCIPAL
Mrs. Kristen Peterson



ASST. PRINCIPAL
Mr. Robert Blumenthal



ASST. PRINCIPAL
Mrs. Tiffany Hawkins



ASST. PRINCIPAL
Mr. Adam Tenbarge



ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
Mr. Jeff Hamstra



ASST. ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
Mr. Tommy Berry



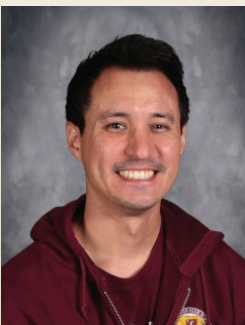
COUNSELOR
Mrs. Gretchen Arthur



COUNSELOR
Mrs. Tuzdae Bartow



COUNSELOR
Ms. Johanna Hess



COUNSELOR
Mr. James Moore



COUNSELOR
Mrs. Julie Roytan



COUNSELOR
Mrs. Amy Snyder



SCHOOL DAY
7:40 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

BLOCK SCHEDULING
CHS utilizes block scheduling alternating **Maroon** / **Gold** days to expand instructional periods.



CHESTERTON HIGH SCHOOL (CHS)
2125 S 11th Street • Chesterton, IN 46304
219-983-3730

CHESTERTON

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Chesterton Middle School - Learning today; training for life.



PRINCIPAL
Mr. Mike Hamacher



ASST. PRINCIPAL
Mrs. Lauren Seiss



DEAN OF STUDENTS
Mr. Josh Tudor



ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
Mr. Rich Gross



COUNSELOR
Mrs. Laura Herrod



COUNSELOR
Mrs. Darcy Lamb



CHESTERTON MIDDLE SCHOOL (CMS)
651 W Morgan Avenue • Chesterton, IN 46304
219-983-3776

SCHOOL DAY
7:50 a.m. - 2:55 p.m.

LIBERTY

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Liberty Intermediate School provides a safe and engaging environment where students are empowered to explore their talents, build on their curiosity, embrace high expectations, and become responsible, caring citizens.



PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Kelly Hardwicke



COUNSELOR

Mrs. Sarah Smenyak



LIBERTY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL (LIS)
50 W 900 N • Chesterton, IN 46304
219-983-3690

SCHOOL DAY
8:15 a.m. - 3:05 p.m.

WESTCHESTER

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Westchester Intermediate School provides a safe and engaging environment where students are empowered to explore their talents, build on their curiosity, embrace high expectations, and become responsible, caring citizens.



PRINCIPAL

Mr. Shawn Longacre



DEAN OF STUDENTS

To be determined



COUNSELOR

Mrs. Maureen Hurst



WESTCHESTER INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL (WIS)
1050 S. 5th Street • Chesterton, IN 46304
219-983-3710

SCHOOL DAY
8:15 a.m. - 3:05 p.m.

BAILLY

ELEMENTARY

Bailly Elementary School works together with families and the community to help students reach their personal best by learning in a safe and positive school; we seek to develop lifelong learners who grow into responsible citizens.



PRINCIPAL
Mrs. Carey Storm



DEAN OF STUDENTS
Mr. Justin Jenks



COUNSELOR
Mrs. Heather Kellogg

BAILLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (BA)
800 S. 5th Street • Chesterton, IN 46304
219-983-3670



SCHOOL DAY
8:00 a.m. - 2:25 p.m.



PRINCIPAL
Mr. Nino Cammarata



COUNSELOR
Mrs. Lindsay Moskalick

BRUMMITT

ELEMENTARY

Brummitt Elementary School provides a safe and engaging learning environment where students are empowered to explore their talents, build on their curiosity, embrace high expectations, and become responsible, caring, citizens.



BRUMMITT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (BR)
2500 Indian Boundary Road • Chesterton, IN 46304
219-983-3660

SCHOOL DAY
8:00 a.m. - 2:25 p.m.



JACKSON

ELEMENTARY

Jackson Elementary School, in partnership with all components of the community, will ensure a physically and emotionally safe environment for all learners. We are committed to creating and maintaining a responsive, child-centered learning environment in which students will acquire the knowledge and skills to be productive, lifelong learners by building upon students' individual abilities to reach their greatest potential.



PRINCIPAL
Mr. Sam Marshall



COUNSELOR
Mrs. Elizabeth Martin



JACKSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (JA)
811 N 400 E • Valparaiso, IN 46383
219-983-3680

SCHOOL DAY
8:00 a.m. - 2:25 p.m.



PRINCIPAL
Mrs. Heidi Hennigar



**DEAN
OF STUDENTS**
Mrs. Kristin Bonez



COUNSELOR
Mrs. Lindsey Stainko



LIBERTY

ELEMENTARY

Liberty Elementary School staff, families, and community empower students with the skills and mindset to succeed. We promote a safe and inclusive learning environment that fosters meaningful relationships. Liberty Elementary School staff provides a high-quality education, inspiring students to explore their talents within and beyond the classroom.



LIBERTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (LES)
50-1 W 900 N • Chesterton, IN 46304
219-983-3650

SCHOOL DAY
8:00 a.m. - 2:25 p.m.



PRINCIPAL
Mr. Josh Huwig



DEAN OF STUDENTS
Mrs. Becky Holmen



COUNSELOR
Mrs. Susan Harmison

YOST

ELEMENTARY

Yost Elementary School provides a safe and engaging learning environment where students are empowered to explore their talents, build on their curiosity, embrace high expectations, and become responsible, caring, citizens.



YOST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (YO)
100 W Beam Street • Porter, Indiana 46304
219-983-3640



SCHOOL DAY
8:00 a.m. - 2:25 p.m.



TROJAN

VIRTUAL ACADEMY

601 W Morgan Avenue
Chesterton, IN 46304
219-983-3743

The Trojan Virtual Academy (TVA), now in its third school year, is a free virtual K-12 program providing education to over 120 students annually. The Duneland School Corporation is excited to continue this unique virtual opportunity for Duneland and out-of-district students.

SCHOOL DAY
K-12 TVA - Flexible Schedule

The Trojan Learning Center Academies provide an accepting environment where innovation and flexibility go beyond traditional schooling to empower individualized learner success.



DIRECTOR
Mrs. Christy Jarka



COUNSELOR
Mrs. Michelle Bruss

DUNELAND

RISE ACADEMY

411 S Fifth Street
Chesterton, IN 46304
219-983-3743

High school students who need to accelerate credit attainment for graduation have access to the alternative learning program at the Duneland RISE Academy. In this program, students learn in an online environment but with in-person support from a verified teacher and special education teacher. With school day AM or PM options, work-based credit-potential, and connections with career and technical schools, students have the flexibility to meet their schedule and their learning needs to address overall success.

SCHOOL DAY
RISE Academy - Two (2) Sessions:
7:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

DISTRICT AND SCHOOL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Purple Star Recognition

All of the Duneland Schools have been designated as Purple Star schools by the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) for their significant display of commitment to service members, veterans, students and families connected to our nation's military.

2023-2024 Family Friendly Schools

All of the Duneland Schools earned the initial designation of Family Friendly School from the IDOE in 2022 and each school continues to meet the Progressing criteria yearly. This state program recognizes schools that excel in involving families and communities in the educational process. The purpose of the program is to focus on addressing the academic, physical, emotional, and social needs of students while providing the needed resources and fostering the active involvement of their families through schools and the community.

National Merit Scholarship Program

Three CHS seniors, Giovanni DePasquale, Riley Hawksworth and Bridget Raffin, were named National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists and all three advanced to finalists in the Spring 2023. Each of the finalists received a college-sponsored merit scholarship to the college/university of their choice. In addition, three CHS seniors, Saanya Agarwal, Ian Condes and Connor Engels, were named Commended Students in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program.

2022 College Success Award

CHS was one of 81 public schools in Indiana to earn a College Success Award in 2022 based on their success preparing students for college.

2022 Best High School - U.S. News & World

Chesterton Senior High School is a 2022 Best High School, based on rankings that U.S. News & World Report published in April.

2023 Best Public High School in Region

Chesterton High School was voted the 'Best Public High School of the Region' in The Times Best of Region 2023 Competition.

Teacher of the Year - Top 25 Finalist

Duneland School Corporation Elementary Teacher of the Year, Rebecca Holmen, was selected as a 2023 Indiana Teacher of the Year (INTOY) Top 25 Finalist.

Class of 2024 Rising Stars

Four CHS juniors, Jai Barath, Julia Dietrich, Ella Keane and Sophia Zhang, were recognized as Class of 2024 Rising Stars of Indiana as part of the Indiana Association of School Principals (IASP) recognition program.

Indiana Academic All-Star

Ian Condes was one of 40 seniors from throughout Indiana to be selected in the 2023 Indiana Academic All-Stars, a program of the Indiana Association of School Principals (IASP). He was selected from a field of 280 outstanding nominees from the state's private and public accredited schools. Academic All-Star distinction recognizes seniors who excel in the classroom first and foremost, but who also are actively involved in their schools and communities, and take on leadership roles in those activities.

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Distinguished Schools

Liberty Elementary, Yost Elementary and Westchester Intermediate earned the PLTW Distinguished Program recognition for 2022-2023. PLTW's recognition program celebrates districts and schools committed to helping students unlock their potential and own their education by increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in their PLTW programs.

Duneland Robotics Teams Advance to State Competition

Duneland Robotics concluded its season with the State Championship at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. Competing were 12 DSC teams from Brummitt, Liberty Intermediate, Westchester Intermediate and Chesterton Middle School. The Brummitt Elementary GLAM Techs made the finals at the elementary level. The DSC Robotics program has over 200 students participating from 61 teams throughout the district.

Trojan Guard Marching Band

CHS Trojan Guard marching band earned a 4th place finish in the 2022 Indiana State School Music Association Scholastic Finals competition. Coming off a first place Prelims performance the previous week, the Trojan Guard had their best run of the season. This placement matches last season's fourth place standing, the highest placement in six years. The Trojan Guard's final score was also exemplary, the highest point total the band has received in the past 19 seasons.

CHS Music Receives ISSMA All-Music Total Department Award

The Band, Choir, and Orchestra received the Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) All-Music Total Department Award. This State-level honor is given when music educators offer well-rounded music programs, and design performances that allow the students to get well-rounded music educations. While the individual Band, Choir, or Orchestra have won this award as recently as last year, it takes extra qualifications to receive the Total Department award. CHS is one of 19 high schools in the State to receive this award.

National Honor Band, All-State Honors Band & Orchestra

Three CHS band students, Brayden Gray, Ellen Rath and Bridget Wisdom were selected to perform in the 2023 Indiana Bandmasters Association All-State Honor Bands to represent Chesterton as three of the top student musicians in the state, and Wisdom was even honored to lead her section as First Chair. Most impressively, Wisdom was also acknowledged as one of the best high school musicians in the country by earning a spot in the most prestigious National honor ensemble, the Honor Band of America. In addition, CMS 8th grade orchestra student, Sam Smith, was selected to perform in the 2023 Junior All-State Honors Orchestra.

CHS Show Choirs

CHS Show Choirs had a record-breaking season in 2023. It was 2018 the last time they earned a Grand Championship, and this year the Sandpipers & their band, The Business, ended the season as 3-time Grand Champions and 2-time First Runner-Ups. The Drifters also did exceptionally well, as they were 2-time Champions of their Division, as well as 2-time Division First Runner-Ups and 1-time Division Second Runner Up. This means that the lowest any group placed the entire season was third. The Business also earned the Best Band award at every competition they attended.

Celebrating 50 Years of Madrigal & All That Jazz

Chesterton Music was honored to host the 50th Anniversary Madrigal Dinners this past December, adding an extra performance to meet the demand for tickets. Faculty and performers created commemorative mugs and hosted a reunion sing-along with past choral directors. This past year also

marked the 50th Opus of All That Jazz, where middle and high school jazz musicians learn from and perform with the multi-Grammy award-winning professionals.

Speech and Debate Recognition

CHS Speech and Debate students competed at more than 30 tournaments this year, claiming more than 60 individual first place championships in their respective events. Chesterton finished its season ranked among the top 40 teams in the National Speech and Debate Association.

Speech State Championship in Original Performance

CHS seniors Jackson Dudek and Joshua Hoover won the state championship in Original Performance. As per the rules of the event, they wrote their own material which was titled "the Speech'nator" which heartwarmingly spoofed Speech and Debate 'terminator style.' The boys have since had their work officially published.

Debate State Championship in Public Forum

CHS seniors Zander Fish and Saanya Agarwal won the state championship in Public Forum. Fish and Agarwal defeated Fisher's competitors by a 4-1 judges decision in the final round. They represented the negative position on the resolution that "The United States Federal Government should increase its diplomatic effort to peacefully resolve internal armed conflicts in West Asia." Fish and Agarwal are CHS's 2nd consecutive and 7th Public Forum state champion since the event's creation in 2004.

Speech & Debate State Teams Place as Runners-Up

The Chesterton High School Debate team finished their Indiana season in third place at the ISSDA tournament. The Speech team came in as the third place finisher in the AA division at the ISSDA tournament.

Student finishes career in the top 1% of the nation

Senior Gigi Hanner amassed more than 2,000 competition points over the course of her four years in the Speech & Debate program.

Speech student Top 12 in Nation at NCFL Grand National Tournament

Addie Botts, a junior, was a semifinalist at the NCFL Grand National Tournament in Louisville that placed her in the top 12 in the nation in the combined event of Dramatic and Humorous Interpretation.

Japanese Olympiad Team Wins State Championship

The CHS Japanese Olympiad team won the state championship in the third-year division and placed second in the fourth-year division at the Japanese Olympiad of Indiana at Indiana University in Bloomington. CHS has won the Japan Bowl/Japanese Olympiad state championship 22 times along with three national Japan Bowl championships and one national runner-up.

Boys DAC All-Sports Trophy

The Boys placed first in the Duneland Athletic Conference (DAC) standings for the 2022-2023 school year. The boys last won the all-sports standings in 2019-20 and 2017-2018. The Girls placed third in 2022-23 and last won in 2012-13.

Boys & Girls Soccer Teams

The CHS Boys & Girls Soccer Teams were both co-DAC Champions.

Boys Cross Country Team

The CHS Boys Cross Country team were DAC runners-up, Semi-State Champions and competed in the IHSAA State Cross Country Meet where they finished in the Top 10 with ninth place finish.

Boys & Girls Swimming and Diving Teams

The CHS Boys Swimming and Diving team had a successful season that included another DAC Championship along with an IHSAA Sectional Championship. The season culminated in a 10th place finish at the IHSAA State Finals this year. The Girls Swimming team won the DAC and IHSAA Sectional Tournaments and finished 14th at the State Finals.

CHS Boys Track & Field Team

The Boys Track & Field team had a successful season which wrapped up in 2nd place finish for the DAC as well as an IHSAA Sectional Championship at Portage. The team also competed at the IHSAA State Finals.

CHS Boys & Girls Tennis

Both the CHS Boys and Girls Tennis teams won the DAC and IHSAA Sectionals.

CHS Dance Team Club

The CHS Dance Team Club finished its second full season with many accomplishments at the Regional, State and National level. The CHS competitive dance team placed as Runner-up in the AAA Kick regional and state finals. At State competition, the Jr. Ensemble won the Championship title and the Small Ensemble placed as Runner-Up. Individually, there were several state finalists including a Runner-Up finish by Junior Level Soloist Vanessa Vega; and a 4th and 10th place finish by Senior Level Soloists Olyvia Clark and Adele Megaro, respectively. At Nationals, the team placed 4th in Medium Varsity Kick and 8th in Media Varsity Team Performance.

CHS Boys Basketball

The CHS Boys Basketball Team had an outstanding season that resulted in another DAC and IHSAA Sectional Championship. In addition to the team success, two team members, Tyler Parrish and Justin Sims, were selected to the DAC All-Conference Team and Indiana Basketball Coach's Association Junior All-Stars.

CHS Wrestling

Three CHS Wrestlers qualified for the IHSAA State Finals. Senior Aiden Torres had an undefeated season and won the state championship at 145 lbs. Isaiah Wilson qualified in the 120 pound weight class by finishing in fourth place at Semi-State and Ben Shaffer punched his ticket in the 160 pound weight class by finishing in third place at Semi-State.

CHS Boys Golf Team

Boys Golf team advanced to the state meet with a third place finish at the Sandy Pines Regional by shooting a 320. The team had a 15th place finish at State.

DUNELAND SCHOOLS

ONLINE REGISTRATION 2023-2024 NOW OPEN

If you are a returning family, we are excited to have you back! Please make sure to register all of your returning students and attend your student's open house to obtain valuable information for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year.

If you are a new family, WELCOME to Duneland School Corporation where we not only value a quality education, we value each and every DSC student. Please follow the link below to learn about the DSC registration process as well as open houses and much more. Detailed information regarding the online registration process is available at: www.duneland.k12.in.us/registration

DUNELAND

CHILD NUTRITION

Families that need assistance with their student(s) school meals, will still need to apply for free and reduced assistance unless they are currently using the food stamp program or TANF. Families, not currently approved for assistance may apply AFTER July 1, 2023 on our website at: <https://www.duneland.k12.in.us/childnutrition>

Duneland students who live outside the established walking boundaries of their respective schools may be bused to and from school. Bus routes for registered Duneland students will be available on or about Friday, August 11, 2023 via the Skyward Parent Portal.

DUNELAND

TRANSPORTATION

EMERGENCY WEATHER INFORMATION

The decision to close school and engage in an eLearning day or alter the school day is made after collaborating with multiple district personnel, local and state departments, and agencies. Decisions about school delays due to inclement weather will be made as early as possible. In some instances, a school cancellation may follow a two-hour delay. In the event of a two-hour delay followed by a cancellation, DSC does its best to make the decision to cancel school before 9:00 a.m. Delay or cancellation information will be delivered through the Skylert notification system. These notifications are based on the contact information provided in the General category within your Skylert notification system. Please review and update your contact information to receive these notifications. School closing/delay information will also be posted on the DSC website (www.duneland.k12.in.us) and sent to the following media outlets:

Radio: WAKE 1500 AM; Indiana 105.5 FM; WEFM 95.9 FM; WDSO 88.3 FM; WGN Radio 720 AM; WBBM Newsradio 780 AM; **TV Channels:** 2, 5, 7, 9, 32; **Websites:** www.cancellations.com; www.emergencyclosingcenter.com

The following options will be considered during weather emergencies:

Option 1: Start of the school day will be delayed (2-hours from start times). Delayed start times are:

Elementary - 10:00 a.m. **Intermediate** - 10:15 a.m. **Middle School** - 9:50 a.m. **High School** - 9:40 a.m.

Option 2: Students will not report to school; students will participate in inclement weather eLearning day.

Option 3: Schools will dismiss early.

CHS SPORTS TICKET INFORMATION FOR 2023-2024

Ticket prices for the 2023-2024 season: All sports and levels at Chesterton High School will be \$7 per ticket for adults and students.

The Chesterton Athletic Department is again offering All-Sports passes for the 2023-2024 season.

- **Trojan Fan All-Sport Pass** - \$125. This is good for all CHS home events (except IHSAA events) and is non transferable.
- **Duneland K-12 Student All-Sport Pass** - \$35. This is good for all CHS home events (except IHSAA events) and is non transferable.
- **Trojan Punch Pass** - \$100 for 20 punches. This pass is transferable and can be used by multiple people. It works out to \$5.00 per person per event.
- **Senior Gold Card (Lifetime Pass)** - \$25 for Duneland School district residents age 65 and up. Must be purchased in-person at CHS Athletics Dept. License ID required.



Tickets are available for purchase at <https://sites.eventlink.com/s/chesterton-high-school/Tickets>

Duneland School Corporation

2023-2024 School Year Calendar

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
School Days						12

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
School Days						20

OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
School Days						20

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
School Days						19

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
School Days						16

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
School Days						15

August

- 11 First Day for K-6 Teachers
- 14-15 Teacher Work Days & PD (K-12)
- 16 First Day for Students

September

- 4 Labor Day (No School)

October

- 13 End of the 1st 9 Weeks
- 26-27 Fall Recess (No School)

November

- 7 eLearning Day (Election Day)
- 7 Parent/Teacher Conferences K-4 & PD 5-12
- 22-24 Thanksgiving Break (No School)

December

- 22 End of 1st Semester
- 23 Winter Recess Begins

January

- 8 Teacher Work Day (No School)
- 9 Classes Resume
- 15 MLK Jr Day (No School)
- 29 Teacher Prof. Dev. (No School)

February

- 16-19 Winter Break (No School)
- 16 Make-up Day (if needed)

March

- 15 End of the 3rd 9 Weeks
- 25-29 Spring Break (No School)

May

- 7 eLearning Day (PD K-12)
- 27 Memorial Day (No School)
- 30 Last Student Day (& K-6 Teachers)
- 31 Last Teacher Day (7-12)

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		
School Days						19

MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
School Days						16

APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
School Days						22

MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
School Days						21

JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



Key

- = No School
- = First/Last Student Day
- = Electronic Learning Day
- = Possible Make-up Due To Emergency Cancellation
- = Teacher Work Day



1st Semester = 87 Days
 2nd Semester = 93 Days
Total = 180 Days

Teacher Work Days 185 Days
 Board Approved 10/10/2022
 Updated 7/19/2023

Duneland School Corporation

601 West Morgan Avenue
Chesterton, Indiana 46304

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9th GRADE ORIENTATION



a Freshman orientation program, will be hosted on Wednesday, August 9 from 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Chesterton High School. The day will be filled with activities to get incoming Freshmen acclimated to CHS. Students will also get an opportunity to meet upperclassmen, sign up for clubs, have a CHS lunch, open their lockers, and walk their school schedule.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL OPEN HOUSES

ELEMENTARY GRADES K-4

(at respective buildings)

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

INTERMEDIATE GRADES 5-6

(at respective buildings - pending construction)

Monday, August 21, 2023

3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

CHESTERTON MIDDLE SCHOOL 7-8

651 W. Morgan Ave

Monday, August 14, 2023

Schedules & Tours 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Open House 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

CHESTERTON HIGH SCHOOL 9-12

2125 S. 11th Street

Wednesday, August 30, 2023

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

The Duneland School Corporation is always looking for outstanding people to JOIN our TEAM!
Visit duneland.k12.in.us/employment for a list of current openings.

DUNELAND SCHOOLS