

## POINTS OF PRIDE

### ACADEMIC STANDARDS:

- We are proud to be a part of South Lyon Community Schools, where the focus remains on increasing student achievement.
- Dolsen Elementary is accredited through AdvancED. This means that we adhere to a set of common school quality standards and we remain committed to continuous school improvement. On our last External Review (January 2016) we were commended for:
  - “A very positive, collaborative culture of learning, which provides a strong foundation for student achievement, stakeholder involvement and continuous improvement.”
  - “Commitment to Cultures of Thinking and Habits of Mind, which create and sustain a growth mindset focused on the development of the whole child.”
  - “A teacher evaluation and supervision process that emphasizes reflection and professional growth.”
  - “Maintaining an exceptionally safe, clean, welcoming and nurturing environment to support student learning.”
- Teachers at Dolsen teach to curriculum standards provided by South Lyon Community Schools Curriculum, Instruction, Technology, and Assessment (CITA) Department. Our curriculum is aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).
- Our students score above State averages in all curricular areas on the M-Step given to third, fourth and fifth graders each spring.
- Dolsen students have multiple opportunities to use technology as an instructional tool to enhance learning. 5 Google Chromebooks are supplied for each K-5 classroom, with touch-screen interactive devices for K-1 classrooms. We also have an interactive SMARTBoard, iPads, an ELMO document camera, and projectors in each K-5 classroom. Google Chromebooks are supplied to students through multiple Google Chromecarts used throughout the building.

### STAFF:

- Our staff members regularly collaborate with each other in order to foster student success. All staff members work collaboratively with each other in grade level teams as well as across the grade levels, and in conjunction with support staff.
- Dolsen teachers work hard to meet the needs of all learners through use of the workshop model to differentiate instruction for all students.
- Our teaching strategies have been identified as “best practices” by researchers in the field of education.
- We use a variety of assessment (common, teacher generated, formative, summative) to improve instruction.
- Each year our teachers attend a minimum of 30 hours of professional development and meet weekly regarding school improvement and staff development.

### STUDENT LEADERSHIP:

- At Dolsen, we are proud to say “We Take Care of Ourselves, We Take Care of Each Other, and We Take Care of our School!” We do this so that We Are Ready to Learn!
- In connection with our Dolsen rules, fourth grade students participate in a Helping Hands Club, where the focus is on taking care of each other. Mrs. Weakland initiated and runs this club for Dolsen students.
- We also support a school-wide “Choose Kind” initiative, in connection with our Dolsen rules.
- Safety patrol members raise the flag, ring our bell, fill bird feeders for each classroom, walk kindergarten students to the bus, and do many other helpful jobs as part of our student leadership club.
- Student leaders run daily announcements that include Habits of Mind, weather, and upcoming events.

#### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

- The SIP (Shared Involvement Process) Committee is a leadership and decision making forum comprised of parents, teachers, the building administrator and support staff. We meet monthly to discuss importance decisions regarding our school.
- CHEERS (Citizens Helping Educators Encourage Responsible Students) volunteers help support Dolsen Elementary in many ways. Volunteers spend numerous hours helping in the classroom and throughout the building.
- Our PTO is responsible for coordinating many of our special events at Dolsen. Some PTO events include the Scholastic Book Fair, extended academic learning nights, and a variety of Dolsen family nights. The PTO also sponsors student assemblies and author visits.
- Volunteers participate in the district wide Adopt A Reader program. This program is made up of volunteers who have been trained to work with students by reading, writing and playing literacy games on a weekly basis.
- Veterans of our community are honored at our annual Veterans' Day assembly in November.
- Dolsen Elementary is recognized as a "Michigan Green School", thanks to the efforts of our community.

#### STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

- We are proud to be the Dolsen Dolphins! Students can celebrate their spirit by wearing Dolsen apparel or the color blue.
- We also celebrate #TakingCareThursday on the first Thursday of each month. Students read literature connected to this theme, along with their "Taking Care" t-shirt or the color red to show their support of taking care of ourselves, each other, and our school.
- "Taking Care of Others by Using the Habits of Mind" lunches with the principal recognize two students from each class with exemplary efforts for Student of the Month.
- Dolsen teachers work hard to align class field trips with curriculum.
- Dolsen participates in the Business Buddy program. Community member presenters provide a real world connection to careers for students to explore in the future.
- Many classrooms participate in classroom buddy reading programs.
- Students participate in a month long celebration each March to celebrate "March is Reading Month".
- Each grade level presents an evening concert for their families and friends.
- Numerous Dolsen students have their artwork displayed at the Salem-South Lyon Public Library during the district art show.