



DURAND-ARKANSAW SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Families,

Our Christmas concert sure put us all in the Christmas spirit with the musical talents and stylings of our choir and band. Our programs are a beautiful opportunity to showcase the wonderful sounds of our children. One cannot help but be moved by our student's heartwarming performances. From our youngest in all their preciousness to our oldest students singing angelically, we are grateful to be able to share our gifts with one another. As educators, we are all here for one purpose...to create an environment where our children will thrive. We all want to see our students excel through opportunities of service, academic excellence, and the fine arts in a safe and secure learning environment. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to continue to work towards excellence by finding new ways to challenge our students, and we appreciate the amount of parental support and guidance our children have.

As both a parent and an educator, I am always thinking of the best ways to keep our school safe and secure. With that in mind, I want to thank you for understanding the importance of signing your children out and waiting for them in the office. A reminder to make sure that you aren't parking in the loop; if you are getting out of the car please make sure to use a parking stall. If you are dropping off, please make sure to stay on the blacktop so as not to be driving on the sidewalk. The beginning and end of the day is a very busy place and following these procedures greatly helps our staff with getting our students ready and keeping with the day's schedule.

I wrote the following thoughts in my newsletter last month, and I felt the importance to share it again. Every year around the holidays, I always think about gifts and the hustle and bustle of Christmas time. This year is no different; **life can change so very quickly and unexpectedly**, please remember that precious gift of "time". The intangible commodity we all claim to value, yet have so little of. I am asking that, over the holidays, you reflect on time you have given your children, your spouse, your friends, or your parents. Perhaps this year, we can wrap up pretty packages with certificates inside stating an allocated amount of "time" you will spend with the ones you love. In essence, you have captured time. Isn't it "about time" we celebrate and embrace the gifts that are right in front of us...**each other**.

Please know that you are in my thoughts and that I count you and your families as blessings. I wish you peace, joy, and love this holiday season.

Yours in Education,

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