

# Life-Long-Learning

## A Letter from Superintendent Almanza



Dear Community Partners,

Davenport Community Schools Board of Directors, staff and volunteers understand the integral relationship between schools, community and the local workforce. This interdependence starts with employers and families who choose a community based on the quality of its schools and the economic opportunity available to their workers and families. At the same time, schools provide a critical foundation for any community in educating the next generation of workers, citizens and community leaders.

Our district understands the importance of our role and embraces a pre-kindergarten through graduation approach to preparing all students for post-secondary endeavors. While Iowa legislation require students have at least a 4-year high school plan by the end of eighth grade, Davenport Community Schools takes a more comprehensive approach in preparing our students by providing specialized academic and career guidance. This includes the development of a five-year Academic Career Plan (ACP) in 8th grade that is reviewed and approved by families.

Through expansive course offerings, extra-curricular activities, and hands-on career enhancement opportunities, students acquire knowledge and skills that will serve of value throughout their lives. The six identified Iowa Department of Education **Career Pathways** includes an array of careers under the following focus areas:

**Agrisciences and Natural Resources ■ Arts and Communications ■ Business ■ Information and Marketing  
Engineering ■ Industrial and Tech Sciences ■ Family and Human Services ■ Health Services**

This approach is developmentally appropriate and focuses on career exploration for different age groups:

**Pre-K – 5th Grade → Awareness ■ 6th – 8th Grade → Exploration ■ 9th – 12th Grade → Investigation**

These areas are more thoroughly defined on the following pages. In addition to the above, each student receives support from their guidance counselor who assists them and their families in making good decisions in course selection, extracurricular activities and work experiences that are deliberate and relevant to their career interests. Students who find that they are struggling with core content areas receive additional support through academic interventions. There are a variety of dedicated and specialized supports in place for students who need intensive interventions and assurance for successful credit accrual and graduation.

Our district also offers a variety of Advanced Placement (AP) courses and students who meet predetermined criteria on the AP exam may also receive college credit by participating in concurrent (dual) credit courses through the community colleges allowing them to earn high school and college credit for the same course!

While the Davenport Promise did not pass, the Davenport Community Schools remains committed to preparing students for success in the post-secondary endeavor of their choice. We will continue to seek curriculum enhancement opportunities for our students while positioning them for post graduation success. For some, this will be a 4-year college; while for others it may be a community college, apprenticeship, certification, military training or entry directly into the workforce. We are all investing now to prepare our students for post graduation success knowing that it is directly linked to the well being and future of our community.

The Davenport Schools invites you to become part of the process. How can you get involved in our schools, what difference could you make by lending your expertise and experience??

Best Regards,

Superintendent Julio Almanza