

Message from the Principal
January 2009

Happy New Year from Dickinson High School. 2009 brings a host of opportunities and challenges to our students and staff. The staff is in the process of preparing students for the DSTP. Every student in grade 9 and 10 will see a DSTP based problem of the day in one of their core classes. Students will see these problems every Monday through Thursday from now until the test.

Students are working hard to prepare for midterm exams. The exams begin on Wednesday, January 14 and conclude on Tuesday, January 20. All of these days (except January 19) are half days and students are dismissed at 11:15. There is no school on January 19 in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

The Leadership team is working on analyzing student achievement data and developing plans to address the issues that we see. In particular, we see that we have a disturbingly high number of ninth grade students who have demonstrated their aptitude and achievement by meeting the standard on the DSTP, but who are doing poorly in core subjects (particularly English and Math) here at Dickinson. The leadership team is looking at mentoring and advisory programs as well as the possibility of a ninth grade academy.

Winter sports are up and running. I hope you can take an opportunity to come out and see one of our teams in action. As was the case in the fall, some of the teams had a small number of students try out, but Dickinson supports its athletes!

We are excited about the progress that has been made to date in a variety of different spheres of student life here at Dickinson. We look forward to the opportunities that the New Year brings.