



# Brookings School District

*Empowering all learners to embrace and be inspired to realize their potential*

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To: Board of Education

From: Heather Asmussen, Director of Special Services

Re: Administrative Report for April 2025

Date: April 6, 2025

## **1. A Great Place to Work and Learn**

Disability Awareness Week (DAW) was celebrated in March. Adyth, a 4th grader at Camelot, designed the T-shirts for this year. Between T-shirt sales and donations from businesses, we received over \$6,000 that will go directly to purchasing equipment and resources for our students. This year we will be purchasing more adaptive equipment for our students and programs such as crash pads, life jackets, equipment to meet sensory needs, and resources that promote social interactions.

Here are a few highlights and pictures from different buildings.

This year at Dakota Prairie during DAW, students engaged in meaningful learning experiences that highlighted the talents and achievements of individuals with disabilities. During their encore classes, students learned about inspiring figures such as blind illustrators, autistic artists, and deaf musicians, helping to broaden their understanding and appreciation of diverse abilities. In addition, our 3rd grade ambassadors had a unique opportunity to build connections and practice empathy by visiting a special education classroom three times a week. They supported students by assisting with lessons, playing games, and lending a hand during our popular "Coffee Cart Fridays." We also celebrated World Down Syndrome Day in a special way. I had the privilege of visiting classrooms to lead a lesson that educated students about Down syndrome and fostered a message of inclusion and kindness.

Students helped with morning announcements to explain about disabilities each day at MMS. They also had presentations during 10th period to provide more information on the focus disabilities.



## 2. A Great Place to Work and Collaborate

We continue to see growth in our special education numbers. We currently have 702 students who are served in our special education programs.

Grades	EC	JK	kg	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	12+	
Total of all schools	72	11	56	52	65	65	67	56	47	45	30	50	20	32	24	10	702

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