

Celebrate Deaf Awareness Week with NDSB

By Connie Hovendick
Superintendent

National Deaf Awareness Week is celebrated during the last full week in September. Each year the students and staff at the North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center plan activities to raise awareness about hearing loss in order to create a greater understanding of the issues facing individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. Local and statewide events are planned by school staff and outreach specialists in Devils Lake, Bismarck, Fargo, and Minot.

Awareness information regarding the North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center:

The North Dakota School for the Deaf

Model School is accredited for Pre-K through eighth grade. These students are included in Devils Lake Public School classes, as appropriate, and may participate in Devils Lake Park Board and DLPS extra-curricular activities.

High school students attend classes and extra-curricular activities at Devils Lake High School. Students, whose families do not live in Devils Lake, reside in the dormitory at NDSB and continue to obtain educational support services from NDSB staff.

The NDSB/Resource Center has Parent/Infant and School Age Outreach offices located in Fargo, Underwood, Bismarck, Minot, and

Devils Lake. Outreach specialists provide home services to more than 40 families of children, birth to three, who are deaf or hard of hearing. They also provide consultation services to educators of more than 100 school age deaf or hard of hearing students. Outreach specialists travel the entire state to serve these children.

NDSB/Resource Center's fastest growing program is the Adult Services, with offices in Grand Forks, Fargo and Devils Lake. Adult Services staff serve more than 500 North Dakota clients and have established Hearing Loss Resource groups across the state. These specialists have also provided trainings for North Dakota

law enforcement agencies.

The Communications Department provides interpreters for deaf and hard of hearing students at NDSB and at Devils Lake High School. Sign Language classes are offered in Devils Lake, Fargo, over the IVN system and can be streamed on individual computers.

Professional development is emphasized at NDSB. Staff attend conferences and trainings to remain current on new research. NDSB/Resource Center provides hearing loss trainings for schools, agencies, community partners, and individuals.

The NDSB facilities utilize a number of different technologies to help deaf and hard of hearing indi-

viduals access communications. The superintendent's house has been equipped with many of these devices for demonstration purposes. The Trades Building houses a museum that highlights the history of deaf education in North Dakota. Both of these buildings are available for tours. The pool is open for swimming programs through the Devils Lake Park Board.

This summary of services is an overview of the daily happenings at North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center. For additional information regarding any of the services provided, please contact Superintendent Connie Hovendick at 665-4400.