



Urbandale Viewpoint

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

I'd like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to a number of people for such an outstanding year throughout our district. First are our families, for the trust you place in us to provide a safe and high-quality learning experience for your children. Second are the students, for they are why we are here. Their success is our success as we partner together to create learning environments that better prepare students to be successful as they move forward in their lives.

We could not do this important work without the efforts of a tremendous and dedicated staff. Every day they do the work necessary to provide outstanding learning opportunities and take care of the many needs of our students. We are also fortunate to have strong administrative leadership who lead the process of working toward our vision. Finally, the unsung heroes are our school board members. These seven individuals volunteer their time to oversee the district and collaborate to ensure we make the best use of taxpayers' money to provide the highest-quality learning experiences for students.

We have experienced some marvelous successes this year. Based on results from the Iowa Tests, we have more students who are making projected



growth and more students who are reaching and exceeding standards that have been established by the state.

We are proud of multiple staff members who were selected to present at national conferences and honored that Urbandale was recognized at the Leadership Level at the [Iowa Recognition for Performance Excellence](#) celebration.

Urbandale is on the move and it is that "move" that will transform learning for all of the students in our district. We are "Uniquely Urbandale" and proud of it! - Dr. Doug Stilwell

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Join
us June 30th for
the **2014 Brad Peyton
Memorial Golf
Tournament** being held at
Hyperion
and presented by the
**Urbandale Education
Foundation!**

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NOTABLE SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

Jensen Elementary

- On May 7th, Jensen students participated in the National Bike to School Day for the second year in a row. Last year we had 90 students participate and this year we had 115 students participate. Students rode their bikes to school and Urbandale police officers were here to register the bikes. Thank you to Mr. Pettit, 5th grade teacher, who helped collect 30 helmets that were donated for students needing a helmet.
- Our 5th grade students went to BIZ TOWN and had great success!
- The Jensen Iowa Assessment scores improved across the board! Jensen 3rd, 4th & 5th graders set a 15 year high for the percentage of students scoring in the advanced range on the math test. Fantastic!

Karen Acres Elementary

- Karen Acres students participated in a math-a-thon to not only practice their math skills, but also to raise money for the children who are patients at St. Jude's Children's Hospital. They exceeded their building goal of \$1000, raising \$1,127.61! Mrs. Hockenberry, Title I math teacher, helped to organize the event.
- Karen Acres' student advisory groups, called "Cougar Dens", have each planned a special service project to be completed on the afternoon of May 21st. Some of the projects include making cards for the residents of neighborhood nursing homes, holding a canned food drive for the Urbandale Food Pantry, cleaning up trash and pulling weeds on school grounds and in the neighborhood, washing windows in the building and collecting items for the Animal Rescue League. Each Cougar Den consists of two students from every grade level, 1st through 5th, and is led by a teacher at KA. It's a great way for students to build relationships with that adult, as well as with each other. They meet once per month to discuss topics pertaining to the six pillars of character.
- All third grade students were 100% proficient in the math portion of Iowa Assessments taken in February! They've been working hard all year to gain a deeper understanding of the Iowa Core

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NOTABLE SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS (CONT'D)

Karen Acres Elementary (Cont'd)

- (cont'd) Standards for Mathematical Practice, which include the following: Standard 1: Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them, Standard 2: Reason abstractly and quantitatively, Standard 3: Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others, Standard 4: Model with mathematics, Standard 5: Use appropriate tools strategically, Standard 6: Attend to precision, Standard 7: Look for and make use of structure, and Standard 8: Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning. Instruction in all classrooms at Karen Acres, and across the district, is supported by Everyday Math curricular materials, which is closely aligned to Iowa Core. Students have the opportunity to apply the concepts and skills they're learning in a spiraling fashion to real-world activities.

Olmsted Elementary

- We celebrate the phenomenal contribution of four Olmsted teachers that have collectively been part of the Urbandale Family for 150 years: Nancy McClanahan, Kindergarten Teacher (41 years), Pat Kingfield, First Grade Teacher (45 years), Marianne Smith, Third Grade Teacher (42 years), and Deb Bentzinger, Fourth Grade Teacher (26 years). The students and staff of Olmsted and all throughout the district thank our retiring teachers for their significant role in helping students learn, encouraging students to do their best, and for believing in students which in turn resulted in students believing in themselves. We cherish the years that these four teachers have been in Urbandale and thank them for making Olmsted such a special place!
- The annual Earth Day Celebration at Olmsted has been in place for nearly 25 years beginning in the early 1990s. Each April, all Olmsted students work together to beautify the school grounds by removing litter and planting trees. Students work in the garden to supplement their science curriculum, enjoy learning songs, and creating poems about trees and nature. Olmsted's annual Earth Day celebration includes an afternoon of live music in the garden with performances by the UHS Jazz Bands and the Olmsted 5th grade band. Then the entire school population joins together in the singing of the song, Rain Forest, by Jim Valley. When the music begins, all of Olmsted's students, former students, parents, and staff sing together in unison—it sounds like pure joy!
- Our amazing Reading Recover Teacher, [Sara Kieffer-Kizzier, published an article about the Olmsted "Take a Book, Leave a Book" project.](#) The article was featured on author, Donalyn Miller's blog.

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NOTABLE SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS (CONT'D)

Rolling Green Elementary

- Opera Iowa was the "visiting artist" that PTO funded this year for all students at Rolling Green. Each year, our PTO funds a different artist and expands the student opportunities and experiences with fine arts.
- Our fifth-grade student survey indicated that students saw the application of business skills during Biz Town as one of the most important highlights of the school year!
- Second-grade students chose Goodwill Industries as their community connection to project-based learning. Students have been to two Goodwill locations and have had speakers from Goodwill come to school to teach them about services they provide in our community. Second-grade students then organized a community "drop box" for neighbors and school families. Students have learned that one pair of jeans provides five adults with a job in our community. It has been a meaningful experience for all!

Valerius Elementary

- This spring, our PTO sponsored Read-A-Thon was held for 2 weeks (March 31-April 14). This is a fundraiser that students read a total of 4 hours during the two weeks, get at least 6 sponsors and each sponsor pays the student \$8.00, so is referred to as '2-4-6-8 Valerius Read-A-Thon!' A total of \$2800 was raised and the top winner was Gabe VanHacke (3rd grade) who read 960 hours and raised \$300. He won an iPad Mini!
- Our 5th graders had a special field trip in February when they went to Junior Achievement (JA) Biztown! This was a very hands on, educational field trip where students had the opportunity to learn about important finance, economic, and social skills. This was funded by our wonderful PTO!
- Once again, our Flying Eagles Running Club is off to a great start! Our first-grade participation for the first week was unbelievable at 91.4%, and 67.1% for the entire school. Our Eagles ran an impressive 542.5 miles in just the first five days! Wow!

Did You Know?

Urbandale students will have earned a total of 1,186 'dual credits' this year. Dual credit means a student receives high school and college credit for completing a course without incurring the cost of that college credit. The cost of a credit hour at Iowa State University is \$277, thus the total cost avoidance for college (and potential savings for families) in the 2013-2014 school = \$328,522!

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NOTABLE SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS (CONT'D)

Webster Elementary

- Parent-Teacher conferences were held in March. Thanks to the great support of our parents, we had a 99% parent attendance rate! This is so important in helping our students to learn and achieve at high levels.
- Our Student Council led a fundraising drive with the entire school to raise money for Keith Miner, husband of Lindsey Miner, a pre-school teacher associate, who is battling with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) at such a young age. Our school came together to raise \$ 2,656.11 for Keith in hopes that we can support him and his family in finding a cure for this awful disease.
- Our Webster Running Club has resumed for the spring and the students continue to make great strides in their total miles ran. Since our start of the Running Club in the spring (on April 7, 2014) our students have run over 2,041 miles. And we still have many weeks to go! In addition, our top runners from the fall had the opportunity to run in the Drake Kid Strider's Run as part of the Drake Relay's festivities in downtown Des Moines. Many more also participated in the Drake Grand Blue Mile, too! Way to go, runners!

Urbandale Middle School

- The 2nd Annual UMS Variety Show was held on March 13th. Our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders demonstrated a wide variety of talents including reading an original poem, singing, dancing, yo-yo-ing, and magic. One of our students even wrote and performed an original song! Thanks to all of the students and staff who helped make the show a success!



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NOTABLE SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS (CONT'D)

Urbandale Middle School (Cont'd)

- On April 2nd, UMS girls had the opportunity to participate in "Introduce a Girl to Engineering" hosted by John Deere at the Des Moines Works site. Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds began the morning with a greeting and message about the future of STEM in the state of Iowa. The students had a chance to interact and ask questions of women that are employed at John Deere in the engineering and design fields. Throughout the day, UMS students were given various problem-solving activities in order to develop solutions. The activities reinforced critical thinking tactics being learned in classrooms and enabled students to work collaboratively with peers from other schools.
- UMS Theater is back! It has been approximately twenty years since the middle school student body performed a theater production. On April 22nd and 24th, the middle school theater group ended the drought by performing "Little Shop of Horrors." Preparations for the performance began in October 2013 with students participating in after-school meetings to learn and practice theater skills such as voice projection, stage presence, singing, choreography, set design, set preparation, sound effects, and rehearsals. All the hard work culminated in the two-hour musical performed to enthusiastic crowds composed of students, parents, teachers, and community members!

Urbandale High School

- A group of seven UHS students, Leziga Barikor, Dayna Campbell, Hanna Chambers, Bri Goodside, Ben Kramer, Samra Mehic, and Chase Shiffer, and their TAG Teacher, Dawn Wendt, participated in the second-annual Langford/Iowa Quality Center Student TEAMS (Training in Evaluating, Analyzing, and Measuring Systems) training. Over the course of five days, students learned critical problem solving tools and how to systematically improve work processes. The students partnered with business executives from Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations to better understand an existing business challenge and presented their solution to Bridgestone and district leadership on March 12. By utilizing Quality tools, the students discovered a solution for Bridgestone's challenge that even Bridgestone hadn't considered! Way to go!
- The Urbandale Chamber of Commerce awarded Marc Hermon, UHS Advanced Chemistry and Physics Instructor, the distinguished honor of Educator of the Year on April 30. Mr. Hermon has been at Urbandale High School since 1999 and is both an active leader and contributor throughout the district. In addition to teaching Advanced Chemistry and Physics, which are dual-credit courses offered through DMACC, he coaches the UHS Physics Olympics Team and the UHS Science Bowl Team—both of which have won State Championships under his guidance.

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NOTABLE SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS (CONT'D)

Urbandale High School (Cont'd)

- (cont'd) Mr. Hermon founded the Annual Roller Coaster Engineering Competition which is held every spring at Iowa State University. He is a member of the UHS Technology Steering Committee and maintains the ULearn.UrbandaleSchools.com online courseware tool, sponsored by Moodle, and used by educators throughout the district. Congratulations Mr. Hermon on receiving this much-deserved honor and recognition!
- On April 13, Barnes & Noble named Jon Parrott, 8th Grade American History Teacher at UMS, the local winner of the Barnes & Noble My Favorite Teacher Contest. Mr. Parrott was nominated by Urbandale High School Senior, Katie Meegan. Katie's essay was selected by Barnes & Noble out of all metro middle and high school students that submitted essays in the My Favorite Teacher Contest. Katie wrote her meaningful essay on the impact that Mr. Parrott has had on her learning and direction for the future. Congratulations Katie and Mr. Parrott!

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

We've added more videos of Urbandale teachers and principals sharing how Quality and Continual Improvement (Q/CI) has made a profound impact on how they view their role in the classroom, how they believe they can best help students achieve success, and what it means to be part of a system whose aim is continual improvement. Be sure to check out the [Showcase](#) for more!



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ACTIVITIES ACHIEVEMENTS

Basketball

- ▶ 2014 State Tournament Qualifier - Boys Basketball
- ▶ Allen Lazard – 2nd Team All-State - Boys Basketball



Bowling

- ▶ Joseph Raygor – 2014 State Boys Bowling Qualifier



Speech Competition

- ▶ Rylee Hayes was nominated for All-State Speech
- ▶ Urbandale qualified in 10 Events for the State Speech Competition

Swimming

- ▶ Stjepan Fiolic – 2014 Boys State Swim Meet Qualifier - placed in 4 events at the Boys State Swim Meet
- ▶ Ben Kramer – 2014 Boys State Swim Meet Qualifier



Wrestling

- ▶ Lachlan Kelley – 2014 State Wrestling Tournament – 6th Place
- ▶ Jake Heinrich – 2014 State Wrestling Tournament Participant
- ▶ Zeljko Caculovic - 2014 State Wrestling Tournament Participant



ADVENTURETIME UPDATE

What a year it has been! Adventuretime staff members have so enjoyed the opportunity to get to know each student and share a love of learning together. We were thrilled to welcome approximately 225 preschoolers during the instructional school day and 623 preschool through fifth-grade students during our before/after school and all-day programs throughout the year. It's always amazing to see how much students learn and grow over the course of a school year and it's our pleasure to be a part of this special time.

As some of you may not be as familiar with Adventuretime Family Services, we'd like to share a bit more about our comprehensive programs. Adventuretime includes three main program areas: 1) before and after school, 2) all-day care, and 3) 3-year and 4-year preschool. All of our programs are structured to be inclusive and serve a diverse group of students with varying abilities. Our goal is to provide high-quality childcare and preschool programming, while meeting each individual student's needs, that encourages students to become lifelong learners. Adventuretime and partner programs provide a setting where children feel safe, respected, and cared for at all times. These programs also allow children to take part in developmentally appropriate activities during organized activities and through play.

Important Dates:

- Preschool pre-registration began on February 3, 2014.
- 2014-2015 before/after school program registration began on May 1, 2014.
- Summer registration was due by May 5, 2014.
- Our Adventuretime Summer Program begins on June 2, 2014 and ends on August 8, 2014.

To learn more or to register for an Adventuretime program, we invite you to visit:

<http://urbandalecommunityed.com/adventuretime/home>

Did You Know?

Through the efforts of UCSD Energy Management Program during the 2013-2014 school year, the district has saved over \$134,000 by reducing usage of electricity, gas, and water! This equates to removing 8,189 metric tons of CO₂, planting 37,621 tree seedlings for 10 years or removing 306 passenger cars for one year.

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2014-15 ONLINE REGISTRATION UPDATE

Thank you to all families that have already completed online student registration for the upcoming year! We've been so pleased by the response and look forward to having all families register soon. As we continue to refine the online registration process, we've discovered two areas relating to new students in the district and bus transportation that we'd like to direct your attention to:

1. **New Students:** For families registering new students in the district, please mail or deliver fees to the Administration Office. The online registration system won't recognize new students until we are into the 2014-2015 school year, therefore the system cannot accept online payments. You may send a check to the Administration Office, payable to Urbandale Schools, or you may come to the Administration Office and pay by check, credit, or debit card.
2. **Bus Transportation:** If you need the bus and know you live in an area that you are not required to pay, please select the 'button' that depicts which type of transportation you need (e.g. Annual 2-Way). At the end of the process, the system will still show that you have a fee for the bus, but please disregard it. We will be checking each individual bus request to be sure that payments are made for those that need to pay. Reminder: Payments need to be paid by July 13th for Rolling Green and August 8th for all other buildings. Payment must be received before a student can ride the bus.

If you have questions or suggestions about the online student registration process, please email Sandy Schultz, Student Data Manager/Registrar, schultzs@urbandaleschools.com

CABIN FEVER DAY

At the core of transforming education is a commitment to supporting teacher leadership and growth, which is why the district held its third-annual mid-year professional development day, referred to as Cabin Fever Day, on February 17. The day's program included nearly 60 workshops facilitated by staff members, business leaders, and education visionaries from across the state. The day concluded with a



student showcase demonstrating the impact that Q/CI has had on student engagement and learning.

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DEPARTMENT NEWS (QUICK VIEW)

Activities: School is out – yet we still have a host of activities that will take place over the summer. Visit www.j-hawks.com for all the latest updates.

Business Services: Currently devoting time to various strategic plan initiatives; including development of a written business procedures manual and implementation of a new purchasing card program.

Communications: Building a Learning Results section within the [Showcase](#) to continue sharing student and staff perspectives and results relating to quality and continual improvement.

Community Education: Urbandale Community Education is proud to house Urbandale Community Theatre and assist in the production of The Music Man in the Urbandale High School Performing Arts Center in July, 2014.

Curriculum & Assessment: UCSD Social Studies Curriculum Development Team has been working to review and revise the UCSD Social Studies Curriculum. The process has involved studying Iowa Core Social Studies and best practices in order to revise and develop the UCSD Curriculum Framework to include the Iowa Core. The team will be seeking board approval of their written curriculum this Spring. Literacy and Math teachers continue to review the Iowa Core and revise UCSD curriculum to align with the core. Instructional materials to assist students in learning the revised curriculum are being studied.

Guidance: The guidance department will have completed the bulk of the curriculum update K-12 by the end of the summer.

Human Resources: Meeting with exceptional candidates to fill open positions in the district in order to continue creating the highest level of student and professional achievement.

Information Systems: Upgrading Data Center infrastructure, continuing our Google Apps for Education migration, and planning for next year.

Maintenance & Construction: The custodial staff is continuing to make changes with an eye on increased proficiency, efficiencies, and productivity. Team cleaning has been implemented at several sites and this has enabled greater coverage at UMS and UHS. Increased training and a uniformity in our cleaning standards will be a substantial part of our focus during the summer months, while also completing summer cleaning.

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DEPARTMENT NEWS (QUICKVIEW CONT'D)

Nutrition Services: After a comprehensive review process by the Department of Education, we're proud to share that the Nutrition Services Department has passed the State review! Areas that were reviewed include specific requirements for food quantities being available to students in all serving lines for all meal components, all labels and/or manufacturer specifications for food products and ingredients used to prepare school meals indicate zero grams of trans fat per serving, the minimum calories required for breakfasts served under the Food Based Menu Planning option are offered and available to students as applicable, and all Pre-K meals are compliant with the current meal patterns for the age/grade group being served. Thank you to the Nutrition Services Team for all your hard work and dedication!

Special Education: We will be assessing our level of "quality performance" in an improvement committee meeting May 28; laying the groundwork for goal setting and action planning. We are celebrating strong outcomes at the middle and elementary levels for special education students on Iowa Tests!

Student Services: The School Board approved the district's updated Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and American with Disabilities Act Procedure Manual and the English Language Learner Lau Plan and Procedure Manual (both manuals can be located on the district website under Student Services). English Language Learner teachers and UHS Reading Language Literature teacher have completed 64 hours of LETRS (Language Essential for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) professional development and are now participating in individual LETRS coaching sessions provided by the Iowa Department of Education and Heartland AEA. Nurses continue the development of a district-wide UCSD Nursing Procedure Manual. This summer the TARA (Teaching All - Reaching All) Team will be attending Eric Jensen's Brain-Based Workshop "Teaching with Poverty in Mind." During the 2014-15 school year this team of teachers and administrators will provide professional development to UCSD staff on the secrets of how the brain works and what teachers can do to maximize positive changes in a student's brain in order to increase learning potential. Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.jensenlearning.com/workshop-teaching-with-poverty-in-mind.php>

Teacher on Special Assignment: Working closely with Literacy and Social Studies teachers K-12 in aligning UCSD curriculum to the Iowa Core. As well as working closing with the Early Literacy team, the Curriculum Review Process and Mapping to the Core deployment plans, and the UCILT improvement leadership team.

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Honoring Our Retirees

Marsha Frakes	School to Work Coordinator	Urbandale High School	9 Years
Brenda Auxier-Mailey	Director of Student Services	Administration Office	16 Years
Joanne Sofen	Special Education Teacher	Urbandale High School	16 Years
Martha Hutzell	Food Service Head Salad Prep	Urbandale High School	15 Years
Linda Horner	Secretary	Metro West Learning Academy	17 Years
Lisa Langan	Special Education Teacher	Karen Acres Elementary	20 Years
Mary Dahlby	Family & Consumer Science Teacher	Urbandale High School	21 Years
Thomas Dale	Custodian	Karen Acres Elementary	22 Years
Linda Templeman	Social Studies Teacher	Urbandale High School	23 Years
Deb Bentzinger	Fourth Grade Teacher	Olmsted Elementary	26 Years
Leslie Sheridan	English Teacher	Urbandale High School	26 Years
Cheryl Cunningham	Clerk/Receptionist	Urbandale High School	27 Years
LouAnn McClain	Director of Curriculum & Assessment	Administration Office	27 Years
Gloria Peters	Science Teacher	Urbandale High School	27 Years
Marykay Gillam	Social Studies Teacher	Urbandale High School	29 Years
Mary Lumley	Special Education Teacher	Urbandale High School	39 Years
Nancy McClanahan	Kindergarten Teacher	Olmsted Elementary	41 Years
Marianne Smith	Third Grade Teacher	Olmsted Elementary	42 Years
Patricia Kingfield	First Grade Teacher	Olmsted Elementary	45 Years

DATES TO REMEMBER

**Remember
Late-Start
Wednesdays!**

District-wide Dates:

May 16	Last full day for Seniors
May 19	Board Meeting
May 21	Senior Honors Ceremony, 9:00 a.m., UHS
May 22	UHS Graduation, 7:00 p.m., Knapp Center, Drake University
May 26	No School (Memorial Day)
May 28	Last day of school for students
May 29	Teacher In-Service Day
May 29-June 6	Rolling Green Intersession
May 29	SIAC Meeting, UHS
June 2	Adventuretime Summer Program begins
June 9	Board Meeting
June 30	2014 Brad Peyton Memorial Golf Tourney, Hyperion Field Club
July 4	No Adventuretime; Urbandale 4th of July Parade and Celebration
July 7	Board Meeting
July 17, 18, & 21	Rolling Green New Teacher In-Service
July 22 & 23	Rolling Green Teacher In-Service
July 24	First day of class for Rolling Green students
August 4	Board Meeting
August 8	Adventuretime Summer Program ends
August 8 & 11	New Teacher In-Service
August 12-15	Teacher In-Service
August 14 & 15	No school for Rolling Green
August 18	First day of class
August 25	Board Meeting
Sept 1	No School (Labor Day)
Sept 15	Board Organizational Meeting
Sept 22-26	Homecoming Week



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DATES TO REMEMBER (CONT'D)

District-wide Dates (cont'd)

Sept 29	Board Meeting
Sept 30 & Oct 2	Rolling Green and Jensen Conferences
Oct 6-17	Rolling Green Intersession
Oct 13	Board Meeting
Oct 23	District PTO Meeting
Oct 23 & 28	UHS Conferences
Oct 27	Board Meeting
Oct 31 & Nov 1	Fall Play at UHS
Nov 6 & 11	UMS Conferences
Nov 10	Board Meeting
Nov 11 & 13	Elementary Conferences (except RG/Jensen)
Nov 24	Board Meeting
Nov 26	No School (recess day)
Nov 27 & 28	No School (Thanksgiving Holiday)
Dec 4	SIAC Meeting, UHS
Dec 8	Board Meeting
Dec 22-Jan 1	No School (Winter Break)



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