



DMS Newsflash

May 2020

Distance Learning Surveys

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Deans Mill School recently conducted surveys to gain feedback from students and families about how things are going with distance learning and to determine how they are coping through the Covid 19 pandemic. Our teachers and the school district have done their best to put together a comprehensive distance learning plan that gives consideration to family needs during this difficult time. Here is some general feedback from the surveys that we wanted to share:

Parent/Family Survey Highlights

***OFFERED TO ALL K-5 FAMILIES**

How are families doing?

- 43% of families report they are doing well and feeling good
- 53% of families report they are doing okay and are glad they are not sick

How is your child's digital learning going?

- 71% of parents felt their child's learning is going well or excellent
- 7% of parents felt their child's learning is not going that well

Is your child's workload manageable?

- 90% of parents feel their child's workload is manageable

My child is able to complete his/her work at the following level of support.

- 50% of students complete their work with some help
- 36% of students complete their work independently or mostly independent
- 15% of students are unable to complete most of their work without adult assistance.

How much time does your child spent on school work on a daily basis? (including live meeting times and time spent completing all assignments)

- 1-2 hours: 28%
- 2-3 hours: 34%
- 3-4 hours: 26%

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How do you rate the school's communication with you about distance learning?

🍏 96% of parents reported that communication has been going well or excellent.

Student Survey Highlights

***ADMINISTERED TO GRADE 4 & 5 STUDENTS**

How are they feeling about distance learning?

- 🍏 33% of students are happy about distance learning
- 🍏 55% of students are okay with distance learning
- 🍏 19% of students are overwhelmed or anxious about distance learning

How is their digital learning going?

- 🍏 52% of students are on track and completing all assignments
- 🍏 43% of students are doing okay and finishing up a few assignments

I am comfortable with technology I am utilizing to learn.

(Chromebook, Google Classroom Room, Hangouts).

🍏 94% of students agreed with this statement

Even though we are distance learning, I am still able to connect with friends.

- 🍏 81% of students agreed with this statement
- 🍏 19% of students disagreed with this statement

We appreciate all parent and student feedback in regards to distance learning.

Moving forward, we are utilizing this information to address group and individual needs. In a collaborative effort, our teachers, mental health staff, and administration are connecting with families who shared specific needs. It is our goal to help address any learning and/or social emotional needs that arise with our students at this time.

If your child or family has any needs that arise during distance learning or at any time, please reach out to us for assistance.

We are here for you!

Stay well,



**Distance Learning will continue
for the rest of the school year**

Hi DMS friends and families!
I certainly miss seeing all of
your bright and shining faces!



Healthy Tips from the nurse

PREVENTING SUNBURN

Sunburn can happen within 15 minutes of being in the sun, but the redness and discomfort may not be noticed for a few hours. Don't forget to apply sunscreen to your children prior to going outside to play.

SPRING IS IN BLOOM AND SO ARE ALLERGIES!

Steps to treat allergic rhinitis include trigger avoidance, medications for inflammation and symptom relief, and immunotherapy (allergy shots and tablets). Treating non-allergic rhinitis may include symptom-relieving medication. Drinking lots of water, washing hands and face after playing outside and frequent nose blowing can help alleviate symptoms.

KIDS' GUIDE TO COVID

Please check out the Kids' Guide to Covid 19 YouTube video! It is fun and informative for adults too! <https://youtu.be/T2c2-IQCzyo>

TICK SEASON

Before You Go Outdoors...

Know where to expect ticks. Ticks live in grassy, brushy, or wooded areas, or even on animals. Spending time outside walking your dog, camping, gardening, or hunting could bring you in close contact with ticks. Many people get ticks in their own yard or neighborhood.

Treat clothing and gear with products containing 0.5% permethrin. Permethrin can be used to treat boots, clothing and camping gear and remain protective through several washings.

Alternatively, you can buy permethrin-treated clothing and gear. Use [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) registered insect repellents](#)

containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus (OLE), para-menthane-diol (PMD), or 2-undecanone. EPA's helpful [search tool](#) can help you find the product that best suits your needs.

Always follow product instructions.

- Do not use insect repellent on babies younger than 2 months old.
- Do not use products containing OLE or PMD on children under 3 years old.

Avoid Contact with Ticks

- Avoid wooded and brushy areas with high grass and leaf litter.
- Walk in the center of trails.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION please send **health** information to:

DMSHealthRegistration@stoningtonschools.org

CONTACT THE NURSE

Please reach out to me with any questions, concerns, or if you want to just touch base. Stay safe and keep up the excellent hand washing!

Nurse Lori

DMSnurse@stoningtonschools.org

Phone: 860-535-2235

Fax: 860-535-2392



Specials Update

Our goal for the year is to keep families informed about grade level curriculum in Art, Library, 5th Grade Band, Music, and Physical Education, and how they can support their children at home.

To all of our students and their families,

We miss you and can't wait until we are together again! Until then, we want to tell you that we love seeing your videos, photos, and all of the other ways you are sharing your work and staying in touch with us. Keep up the good work! Thank you to the families who are helping their children during this time. We enjoy seeing you participating and having fun with your children!

With love from

Miss Biernacki, Mrs. LaPalme, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. McMinn and Mrs. MacNab-Renaud



Dear DMS Community,

We had a very productive PTO meeting last night. There are a lot of unknowns that we are facing right now. We have canceled all spring fundraisers. Right now we don't want to ask parents for anything or try to put on any of the fundraisers virtually.

Here is an update of the plan for each fundraiser.

Duck Race- The duck race, which is put on through the Ocean Chamber of Commerce, is postponed until June 27th. We have decided to not be a part of the duck race this year, since it would entail us asking our families to raise money and get donations. If you have already received donations, they can go directly to the chamber. If you would still like to buy ducks for the race, you can do so by visiting the chamber's website.

<http://www.oceanchamber.org/>

Basket Raffle & Pasta Dinner- We are canceling this event all together for this school year. We will hold on to the amazing donations we had already received for raffle prizes and classroom baskets. We are hopeful that we might be able to add the basket raffle to Fall Fest, but will play it by ear over the summer.

Color Run- This event is canceled as well. We had invited West Vine and Stonington Middle Schools to join us for this event. We are skipping it this school year, but are looking forward to having them join us for this awesome event in Spring 2021.

We also approved a few items last night.

- 🍏 We are buying soccer goals for the DMS field with help from Stonington Human Resources and the Stonington Soccer Club. The total cost of the goals was \$3,500. Stonington Soccer Club paid \$750, DMS paid \$750, and Human Resources paid the remaining \$2,000.
- 🍏 We are donating \$50 toward appreciation gifts for our amazing food services staff.
- 🍏 We are also giving every student a FREE yearbook! This will be a one time thing. This again aligns with the fact that we don't want to ask parents for money for anything. We also realize that this will be a piece of history that our children are a part of. This will be something that they can look back on and show their own children what it was like. This is estimated to be about a \$4,000 expense item.
- 🍏 We have about \$900 left in our teacher appreciation fund. We voted to put this money toward buying a tree for our new outdoor classroom! This tree will be dedicated to the DMS staff and students who stood together during a pandemic and survived distance learning! It will be something we can enjoy for years to come and it will be the start of our new outdoor classroom.

We want to **thank you** all for your support over the years, and are glad we are able to continue to support our school, staff, and students during this time. We look forward to a time we can all be together again.

All the best,
Katie Quinlan
DMS PTO President

