



Davis School District

LEARNING FIRST

Monday, June 15, 2020

Dear parents,

I hope this letter finds you and your family enjoying a well-deserved summer break!

Since Feb. 28, in an attempt to communicate adequately, we've sent nearly a dozen letters out regarding COVID-19 and how it has been affecting our students, teachers and schools. We know it has affected you as well, and as preparations for the upcoming school year continue, we want to let you know where plans are at this point.

As you know, Utah is trending upward in number of COVID-19 cases, but we have been informed by Utah Gov. Gary Herbert and the State Office of Education that we will be starting school as scheduled in the fall. The operation of school will definitely be different however, with enhanced guidelines regarding physical distancing and disease prevention measures.

We will follow all guidelines possible that we receive from the Davis County Health Department and the State of Utah. We will provide every student and staff member with a reusable, cloth mask and encourage their use when possible. We will be using enhanced handwashing and/or hand sanitizing in every classroom. We will also be spreading students out as much as possible and not be holding assemblies and large group gatherings, outside of lunch and recess time. The physical distancing is far from an optimal condition, but the practice has proven to be effective in reducing spread of the virus.

There could also be times when a student will need to stay home because they exhibit symptoms of having COVID-19. If the number of such cases requires a sporadic closure of a school, that decision will be made in consultation with the Davis County Health Department. While we are trained in education, the health department is full of people trained in the area of disease management and prevention and we have trust in their warnings and guidance.

This is far from convenient, normal and certainly not how we would prefer to operate our schools. We hope to progressively get back to the way things were before introduction of this virus. We also intend to provide you additional communication at the beginning of July. That communication will involve further details about school procedures, as well as online learning options available to students if they choose not to return to a school campus this fall.

Let me also add my initial thoughts regarding the killing of George Floyd and the subsequent protests taking place across the country. We are outraged, concerned and resolve to do better and reinforce that Black Lives Matter and that all children will be safe, nurtured and cared for in our system.

We have made significant efforts over the past two years at addressing issues of equity and we are far from accomplishing what we need to do. Last week, a northern Utah leadership group — representing multiple school districts, Davis Technology College and Weber State University — met to put together a full regional statement that thoughtfully and thoroughly addresses and reflects true commitment to do better, significantly better, in this area.

Make no mistake; we are extremely concerned about our students and families in all areas of life at this time, especially in the equitable and rightful treatment for all.

Thank you,

Reid Newey
Superintendent

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