



Saturday, Aug. 1, 2020

Hello Davis School District Families,

As we prepare to reopen school to students, faculty and staff on August 25, I would like to address concerns that have been expressed.

This past March, Utah Gov. Gary Herbert issued a soft closure for all public schools. When that occurred, as you know, district teachers, administrators and staff had two days to prepare and launch a full-time remote learning platform so that the education of all students could continue. Although we had a student engagement level of 86% and above during the last quarter of the school year, and although the learning situation was not ideal, our teachers and staff were exceptional at adjusting to the health crisis of COVID-19 and providing continued learning opportunities for students.

Since then, incidences of COVID-19 have continued to be at elevated levels compared to March, and the predictability of what virus numbers will be when school begins are difficult to determine at best.

The decision to move to a moderate level of caution in our Davis Learns Together plan — two days a week (6.5 hours per day) and three days of remote learning — was made in consultation with Davis County Health Department representatives to ensure the highest level of safety for staff and students.

As previously mentioned, teachers were given very little time to prepare for remote learning last spring. By starting the year in this fashion, teachers will be more prepared and capable to facilitate learning during those remote days.

Since teachers will now have regular in-person connection while students are at school, they will be able to provide clear expectations and support for what students should do on remote days. If a student struggles with remote learning on a particular day, they can address it with the teacher at the next in-person class meeting.

Remote learning will also be enhanced by K-12 teachers using a uniform learning platform and a mix of both digital and non-digital activities. Learning will be better aligned with the class topics, and paced instruction will occur between in-person class meetings. Teachers will be engaged with in-person learning on Monday through Thursday, and remote learning experiences on those days will be designed to further their learning. On Fridays, students will be able to access their teacher in whole-class, small group, or individually via remote means.

If needed, teachers may also be available to meet students in-person at schools by appointment. Schools will also work to establish a schedule so remote activities on Fridays do not create overlapping remote learning sessions for students.


Once again, we will not know how COVID-19 will spread until our students and staff return to school on August 25. We know there is no such place as a COVID-free zone. That being said, we hope students and faculty remain healthy and safe. At that point, we will continually evaluate COVID-19 rates in our schools, with the intention to return to a normal school schedule as soon as possible.

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We know a normal school schedule is the most beneficial to our students' academic and social/emotional needs. That normal schedule hinges on having healthy and safe teachers, administrators and classified personnel.

We also realize we will never be able to ensure everyone's complete safety and health. However, we can exercise caution in hope of a more stable, supported return to normal school.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Reid Newey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "R".

Reid Newey
Superintendent