



BOARD BRIEFS

Authored by the Davis School District Community Relations Department

Hybrid learning continues focus on student growth Additional tools provided to help teachers assess deficiencies

The district will continue its focus on student learning going into the new school year Assistant Superintendent Dr. Logan Toone told Davis School District Board Members at a board workshop.

“We still want to maintain high graduation and AP rates and also deliver the types of learning that we’ve always been able to do,” said Toone.

“As we think about COVID-19 in the schools, the adjustment of schedules, what we did in the spring with a soft closure and remote delivery, and what we are doing now with a temporary period of hybrid delivery, our targets in terms of learning haven’t moved that much,” he said.

Some parents have expressed concerns about learning outcomes for their students going forward with hybrid learning coming off of last spring’s remote learning situation, Toone said.

“We share that concern. The best place to assess and remediate that unfinished learning is in the classroom, and teachers are accustomed to this,” said Toone. “Teachers have been given a series of resources and tools to identify and assess the gaps.”

Teaching and Learning Director Belinda Kuck said teachers will focus on helping students work on grade-specific material.

“We don’t want to spend so much time on review that we do not get to grade-level content,” she said. “Our recommendation is we start on grade-level content ... and shore the students up through some really deep, rich tasks and activities to help bring them to the point where they have that unfinished learning that can be finished and then moved on.”

“We still want to maintain high graduation and AP rates and also deliver the types of learning that we’ve always been able to.”

— Assistant Superintendent Dr. Logan Toone

The district has also created templates in Canvas — the online learning platform used by the district — to provide continuity for students in every grade.

“It was built by teachers, for teachers, to keep teachers organized and keep all classes looking the same,” said Kuck.

During remote learning, students will participate in activities that complement in-person learning days.

“We want learning at home to be very active and rich, and have high rigor and high applicability, such as videos to prepare them for discussion in class or adaptive software programs at home” said Kuck.

Board Member Brigit Gerrard said during one of her school visits, teachers were receiving Canvas instruction.

See LEARNING, Pg. 2

Dashboard to report number of positive COVID-19 cases in district

Beginning in mid-September, the district’s website homepage will feature a dashboard reporting the number of positive COVID-19 cases among students and staff throughout the district.

The dashboard will be updated each Friday, including the number of students quarantined and cumulative cases, Assistant Superintendent John Zurbuchen told Davis School District Board of Education members during a regular workshop meeting.

The numbers will only reflect district-wide data; specifics on each school will not be included with the numbers.

“Many people are asking, ‘What is the number?’ not just the board and school district, but our governor and national government,” said Zurbuchen.

The number of positive tests reported on the district dashboard will be provided by the county health department.

A positive case will remain as a current positive case until the 14-day isolation period has been completed and the person has been symptom-free for 24 hours without medication.

If a student or staff member in the district receives a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, individuals who have had a close contact exposure with that person will be notified by the school COVID-19 Point of Contact or the

See NUMBERS, Pg. 2

LEARNING, from Pg. 1

“Our teachers are coming in more prepared and will be there for students,” said Gerard. “In regards to unfinished learning, teachers are good at what they do and are able to assess quickly and know where kids are.”

Making sure teachers get the right training is allowing the district to stay ahead of the game, said Board Member John Robison.

“We are in a position where we have allowed ourselves and teachers a chance to be successful, and that will filter down into our homes,” said Robison.

NUMBERS, from Pg. 1

Davis County Health Department.

Close contact is defined as being within six feet for 15 minutes or more, with or without wearing masks.

If three individuals in a classroom receive a positive diagnosis over a 14-day period, the entire class will be quarantined.

On a school basis, if 15 documented cases are identified in a 14-day window, the school will be put on a 14-day quarantine.

“The quarantine starts the very next day once that number is hit, which will be very inconvenient for our families, without question,” said Zurbuchen.

“This is where we believe the alternate-day schedule provides us with some leeway, in that since we are physically distancing, we should not have the same disease spread and the possibility of having an outbreak like that is remote, but it does exist.”

Safety protocol in place for extra-curricular activities

Specific safety protocols are in place for extra-curricular activities in junior high and high schools to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. District Director Ryck Astle highlighted the measures during a Davis School District Board of Education workshop.

Administrators, coaches and athletes directors are required to receive specialized COVID-19 training provided by the National Federation of High Schools. The district has also trained all administrators and coaches on the High School Activities Association return-to-play guidelines, which will be adhered to closely, Astle said.

- Coaches are required to wear masks and observe all distance guidelines.
- Hand sanitizer will be available on both sides of the field or court and athletes will be required to bring their own water bottles.
- No handshaking will occur before or after games, with coaches instructed to take their teams off the field immediately after a game to avoid contact with other teams and spectators.
- Host schools will be responsible for all sanitization of areas before and after the event.

“There is a great clarity with what we want our coaches to do,” said Astle. “We have a plan in place and are working with the health department very closely.”

Healthy Lifestyles Director Dr. Tim Best also addressed the school board regarding protocols that are being followed in physical education classes. Disinfectant spray will be used on equipment between classes. Any group activities will be conducted outside.

Students in PE classes are also required to wear masks and activities will have a skills-based focus in order to physically distance students apart from one another.

In a related note, a limited number of tickets will also be available at games, which will only be available for purchase online.