



July 28, 2020

Dear Davis School District families,

This past June, Utah Gov. Gary Herbert issued a directive to resume public school operations for the 2020-21 school year. Each district was asked to submit a reopening plan by August 1.

Originally, Davis School District planned on a “normal” school opening with required face coverings, enhanced hygiene/sterilization procedures, and — where possible — physical distancing. Due to the prevalence of COVID-19 cases in our community and in order to further limit the spread of the virus, we need to increase our capacity to provide physical distancing in our schools.

To accomplish this we will implement an alternate-day, hybrid (in person/remote) learning model. The schedule for the alternate-day learning model will be as follows: ¹

- Students whose last name begins with A-K ^{2,3}, will attend school in-person on Mondays and Wednesdays with remote at-home learning on Tuesdays and Thursdays .
- Students whose last name begins with L-Z will attend school in-person on Tuesdays and Thursdays with remote at-home learning on Mondays and Wednesdays.
- Fridays will be at-home remote learning days for all students with teachers working from the school site to provide remote instruction.
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Our objectives in doing this are to:

- Reduce the number of students in schools and on buses by half – making physical distancing possible to minimize contact, exposure and spread.
- Allow teachers and staff to effectively monitor and encourage physical distancing, proper hygiene, sterilization, and use of face coverings.
- Enhance contact tracing by the Davis County Health Department.
- Maintain the traditional feel of school and retain good in-school learning habits.
- Maintain students’ personal relationship with teachers and staff, which is an integral part of learning.
- Provide social connectedness and peer interactions between students, which are essential to a child’s well-being.
- Minimize overall risk until the threat of COVID-19 subsides.

¹ In Jr. High and High Schools on a block (A/B Day) schedule, A-day classes will be repeated on Monday and Tuesday for the two groups of students. B-day classes will be repeated on Wednesday and Thursday for the two groups of students on subsequent days. Fridays will be combined A/B days.

² If students in the same household have different last names, group assignment will be applied to all students based on last name of the oldest student in the household.

³ Exceptions to group assignments will be approved by the school principal only when equivalent group sizes can be maintained.

Our teachers must be healthy to teach. Our students must be healthy to learn. During this pandemic, and in these extraordinary times, we believe it is best to cautiously proceed with this alternate-day schedule. Please know these decisions are the result of much research, discussion, and genuine concern for all.

We also recognize the strain this alternate-day schedule places on families (work schedules, childcare needs, etc.). Our hope is that we will see a substantial decrease of COVID-19 cases and be able to resume a typical school schedule as soon as possible. At this point, we are planning for a continuation of the alternate-day schedule until winter break.

We will continue to follow the direction of local health professionals and local governing authorities. Our fully online option remains available if you determine that it will best meet your family's needs.

Please watch for additional, detailed information from your school's administration and/or your child's teacher(s). As with any change of this magnitude, we ask for your patience and support as we work to provide a quality education to your child in uniquely challenging circumstances.

Sincerely,

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



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, reading "Reid Newey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "R".

Reid Newey
Superintendent