



Fri, Sep 11, 2020 at 11:49 AM

Dear DCS Families and Staff,

As I write on the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, I realized this year is the first time where all of our students were born after 9/11/2001. This historic event is truly history for all DCS students. I still remember teaching middle school when I learned of the attacks and the surreal feeling that day. My principal stopped at my classroom around 9 a.m. to share what was known at that time. Soon afterward, I was asked to talk with my students about the situation. There were no cell phones in class, the internet was not what it is today, and the facts were unfolding in real-time. Our school was located in the flight path to Detroit Metro Airport where a steady stream of planes would generally fly over all day. The silence was clearly noticeable to everyone. My students at the time now have children in school and are sharing their memories of that day and the feelings of vulnerability, uncertainty, and the immediate actions of us pulling together as a nation. The days after 9/11 are a tremendous reminder of how we can all work together to support each other through tragedy.

Thank you for your continued support as we work through our first week of the 2020-2021 school year.

We're officially four days into the school year and we want to make sure that we are supporting our students and families as we work remotely. Please take a moment to complete the quick survey and rate each other's thoughts by clicking on this link: <https://my.thoughtexchange.com/971351252>. The survey question is: *What are the biggest challenges you are seeing or experiencing with remote learning and what is working well?*

We have several information items:

- The **Washtenaw County Health Department** is scheduled to conduct a short **presentation about Covid-19 on Monday, September 21st** during the DCS Board of Education meeting at 7:00 p.m. A zoom link to join the meeting will be posted on the DCS website on September 21st.
- The **Dexter Forum is hosting a DCS School Board Candidate Panel on Tuesday, September 22nd at 6:30 p.m.** DCS has three open seats on the November ballot and five candidates are on the ballot. The candidates are: Brian Arnold, Elise Bruderly, Jennifer Kangas, Barbara Read, and Melanie Szawara. A link to register to attend the forum is available at: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qxZdgoVqRWct67hkqCaQNg
- DCS has a [remote learner support page](#) to help parents and students. This is a wonderful resource for parents working to support their children. It includes a phone number to reach Technology during the week and a form to submit tech help requests.
- DCS also has a [livestream page](#) for athletic events and other future student events that have spectator limits. We don't have the staff to Livestream every event but we will stream as many as we can.
- DCS has provided over 250,000 meals to students since March and will continue to distribute meals for any child 18 years of age or younger. Meal pickups will be held at Mill Creek Middle School on Wednesdays between 11:30-1p.m. More information is available on the [DCS Food & Nutrition website](#).
- Many online access sites are available throughout the area. [DCS has a collection of public wifi options](#) on our website. In addition, we've been notified that one of our DCS parents has created public high-speed wifi access for families at the south end of our school district in the parking lot at Hilltop Greenhouse on Liberty.
- Next week, DCS will begin for the formal data review process to determine the next steps in our school opening plan next week. Data review details will be available on the Board of Education agenda on Monday, September 21st. We've been asked about data sources we plan to review. Here is a list of links as starting points for our data review:
 - https://covidactnow.org/us/mi/county/washtenaw_county?s=1006211
 - <https://campusblueprint.umich.edu/dashboard/>
 - <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases>
 - <https://www.washtenaw.org/3108/Cases>
 - <https://coronavirus.1point3acres.com/en>
 - <https://usafacts.org/visualizations/coronavirus-covid-19-spread-map/state/michigan/county/washtenaw-county>

Thank you for your continued support, have a great weekend, and Go Dreads!

Sincerely,

Christopher Timmis, Ed.D.
Superintendent