

DMS Newsflash

N o v e m b e r 2 0 2 0

DMS Goals 2020 - 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we navigate through this very unique school year, we want to keep our focus on improving student experiences and providing the most enriching educational experience possible to every learner at Deans Mill School. To keep our focus in sight, we have created the following school goals for the 2020-21 school year:

🍏 **Our staff will foster collaboration and consistency of instructional practices to support students in the hybrid and full distance learning model.**

To support this goal, Deans Mill School staff and district staff will collaborate and consult to best support individual learning needs.

We will closely monitor student progress and implement instructional strategies that are intentional and data based.

🍏 **To support the social emotional development of all DMS students and staff.**

To work towards this goal, Deans Mill School is implementing the Second Step Curriculum K-5 and focusing on the social emotional development of all learners. As part of this goal, we will continue to promote positive behavioral supports through the DMS WISH, Bucket Filling and Bucket Challenges. In addition to Second Step, the VOICE Program will be introduced to 5th grade students and we will hold PTO Cultural Enrichment Activities for our students.

🍏 **To continue to develop a positive school climate within the Deans Mill School community in both the hybrid and distance learning instructional models.**

To support this goal, we will give consideration to how we can plan and implement past DMS traditions while following COVID protocols.

We will seek out unique opportunities to provide a fun learning environment both in school and virtually.

🍏 **To improve the use of technology to enhance and deliver curriculum to support learning and to effectively communicate with the community.**

To support this goal, our staff will identify tech strategies and tools to engage students and support the delivery of curriculum in a hybrid model. Grade levels will continue to send out bi-weekly newsletters and will continue to utilize email and social media to share information.

We are asking parents/guardians to support these goals by continuing to

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partner with us to provide the best educational opportunities possible to our students. The COVID-19 Pandemic has created a variety of challenges for all of us. We can best face these challenges by working together, communicating, displaying patience, and being kind to everyone. We appreciate your on-going support and dedication to your child(ren)'s education.



Sincerely,

Jennifer McCurdy
Thomas Bousquet

Spirit Days Update

We have decided to change our Spirit Day dates to give students the opportunity to wear their clothing to school. Initially, Spirit Days were scheduled for virtual days to prevent students from feeling like they were missing out. We realize how fun it is for our students and staff to "dress up" and show off their spirit so these days will now be split between Cohort A and Cohort B. If a Spirit Day is scheduled on a student's "at-home" day, he/she is still encouraged to dress up for his or her LIVE meets.



- November 16 **Go Blue for Diabetes Day • COHORT A**
- November 20 **Stonington Day.** Wear Stonington apparel or brown and white • **COHORT B**
- December 22 **Holiday Cheer.** Wear your favorite holiday clothing • **COHORT A**
- January 29 **Tie Dye Day • COHORT B**
- February 23 **Sports Day.** Wear clothing or a jersey from your favorite sports team • **COHORT A**
- March 5 **Wear a shirt with words • COHORT B**
- March 22 **Wear Yellow to support Down Syndrome Awareness • COHORT A**
- April 1 **Wear Blue to support Autism Awareness • COHORT B**
- April 20 **Crazy Sock Day • COHORT A**
- May 28 **Patriotic Day.** Wear Red, White, & Blue to celebrate the USA • **COHORT B**

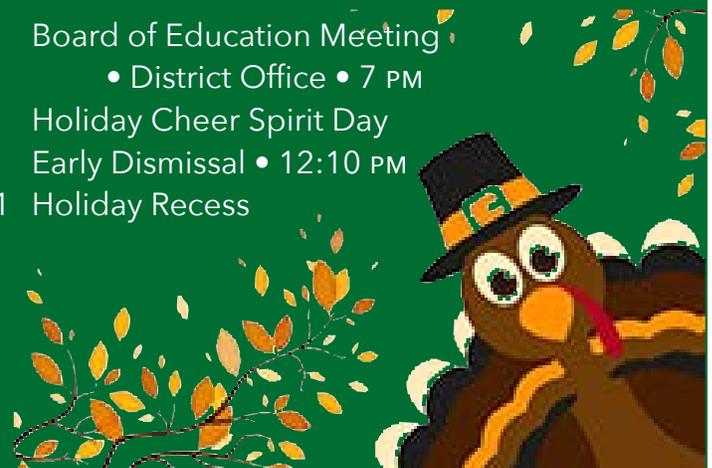
Important Dates

November

- 3 Professional Development Day
• No School
- 10 Virtual PTO Meeting • 6:30 PM
- 11 Veterans' Day Observance
• No School
- 12 Board of Education Meeting
• District Office • 7 PM
- 16 Go Blue for Diabetes Day
- 20 Stonington Spirit Day
- 25 Early Dismissal • 12:10 PM
- 26-27 Thanksgiving Break

December

- 10 Board of Education Meeting
• District Office • 7 PM
- 22 Holiday Cheer Spirit Day
- 23 Early Dismissal • 12:10 PM
- 24-1/1 Holiday Recess



Our goal for the year is to keep families informed about grade level curriculum in Music, Art, Library, and Physical Education and how they can support their children at home.

Art

Miss Biernacki



During their first art rotation, students worked with lines, shapes, and color. Here's a brief description of what each grade will do during their first cycle of art:

- K • Practice mixing the primary colors to make secondary colors
- 1 • Use lines, shapes, and colors to make abstract art that conveys an emotion
- 2 • Draw LARGE folk-art inspired flowers with cheerful colors
- 3 • Use organic shapes to make an abstract collage inspired by Matisse
- 4 • Make art that has a positive message through words and colors
- 5 • Use the elements of art and artistic ideas from history to create works of art that are personally meaningful.

Music

Mrs. McMinn



In the first five week cycle for music, students work on steady beat, rhythm, and note durations. We practice these using speech/chant, playing instruments, and movement. Here's one skill each grade level is working on:

- K • Keeping a steady beat
- 1 • Transitioning from reading iconic notation to standard music notation
- 2 • Reading and playing quarter note, eighth note and quarter rest rhythms
- 3 • Reading and playing sixteenth note rhythms
- 4 • Identifying and playing music in different time signatures
- 5 • Working with the independence of one rhythmic part while stressing interdependence of parts in a drum ensemble

Physical Education

Mrs. LaPalme



During this first cycle, students will be working on fitness and movement through general space. Here are the skills that grades 3-5 and grade K-2 will be working on!

- K • Animal moves such as frog hops, bear walks, etc.
- 1 • Locomotor moves such as shuffle, skip, hop on 1 foot, jump, jog
- 2 • Different speeds of running (slow, medium, fast), gallop
- 3 • Introducing fitness test skills (push ups, curl ups, running, sit and reach)
- 4 • Fitness through varied activities and movements
- 5 • Fitness through CrossFit style workouts and games

Library

Mrs. Anderson-Halbert



During the first library rotation, students are learning to love reading, explore authors, and the older grades are learning about computer coding and online safety! Here is a brief list of what each grade is doing:

- K • Library Book care, Author studies of Robert Munsch, Kevin Henkes, and Norman Bridwell (Clifford series)
- 1 • Library Book care, Fractured Fairytales from Around the World, Author/Illustrator study of Eric Carle
- 2 • Library Book care, Author/Illustrator studies of Jon Klassen and Mac Barnett, Nutmeg Book Award Nominees, and ALA Youth Media / Children's Book Awards
- 3 • Library Book care, Pourquoi Tales, Digital Citizenship/Online Safety, Computer Coding, Author/Illustrator Study of Matt de la Pena & Christian Robinson
- 4 • Library Book care, Computer Coding online and using Ozobot robots, Digital Citizenship/Online Safety
- 5 • Library Book care, Computer Coding online and using Ozobot robots, Digital Citizenship/Online Safety, Littlebits Circuit Creating

Thank You to **Jason Mellow Renovations LLC**

The entire Deans Mill School community would like to express their gratitude to Jason Mellow Renovations LLC for donating materials, designing, and building our outdoor classroom space. We greatly appreciate the time, effort, and kindness that went into the development and completion of this project. This high quality space will allow outdoor learning to take place for years to come, and has been especially beneficial during the pandemic.



Welcome New Staff



Ms. Henebry Paraprofessional

Noelle Henebry is a new paraprofessional at DMS and has been working with children of all ages. She is currently taking a gap year from the University of Connecticut where she studies Social Work and Spanish. Noelle loves history, sociology, and language arts. She hopes to help students develop a love of learning and ability to treat others with kindness. Noelle is very excited to join the DMS community!



NOELLE HENEBRY

Ms. Krawiec Paraprofessional

Kathleen Krawiec is a new paraprofessional at Deans Mill Elementary School. She received her Master's Degree in Special Education from Westfield State University and previously taught in Holyoke, Massachusetts. In her spare time she enjoys reading and kayaking. She can often be found in downtown Mystic walking her French bulldog, Trot. Kathleen is looking forward to helping students and staff succeed in their educational goals during this pandemic.



KATHLEEN KRAWIEC

THANK YOU!



Every DMS Staff member received a little show of appreciation recently from the DMS PTO 🍏

Nurse's Notes



Hearing and Vision Screenings

As required by the Connecticut General Statutes, Hearing and Vision Screenings have been scheduled. Cohort A's took place on Tuesday October 27th and Cohort B's is scheduled for Friday November 6th. If your child has glasses or a hearing aid, please remind him or her to bring them at the time of screenings. If you have any recent updates from your child's hearing or vision doctor, please provide them to the nurse as soon as possible.



Families who are distance learning have the option of scheduling an appointment for screening. Please contact the school nurse if you would like to make an appointment.



Screening is provided for students in Grades K-5 only. (Note that screening is not required for students in Grade 2).



If a vision or hearing problem is suspected, the student will be rechecked at a second screening. If further consultation is recommended, families will be notified in writing of the findings and will be asked to seek further medical evaluation. If you have any questions concerning the screenings, please contact the school nurse.

Change of Clothes

Students in **all grades** should have a change of clothing (shirt, pants, undergarments, and socks, sneakers) to be kept in their lockers. Milk spills! Thank you.



Please help us to keep the DMS community HEALTHY!

Our goal is to keep DMS as healthy as possible, especially during the pandemic, and we are asking that you follow the Parent/Family Responsibility Form - Health Safety Requirements and continue to evaluate your child daily before sending them to school.



Parent/Family Responsibility Form - Health

Prior to enrollment in the 20-21 school year, parents/guardians must acknowledge the following safety requirements:



1. Prior to arrival at school, each student must be evaluated by parent or guardian, on a daily basis, for the presence of symptoms related to COVID- 19 infection. Symptoms may include:



- Fever (100° or higher) or Chills
- Cough
- Shortness of Breath/Difficulty Breathing
- Fatigue
- Sore Throat
- Headache
- Nausea or Vomiting or Diarrhea
- New loss of taste or smell
- Congestion/Runny Nose



Students exhibiting these symptoms should remain home, and parents should contact the school nurse to report such symptoms.

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2. If a student or staff member has direct contact with a person diagnosed with COVID, **they need to stay home and notify the school immediately.** If the person is not testing for COVID, they must remain home for at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms, and at least 24 hours with no fever while off medications. If a negative test result is available, this can be provided to the school nurse for an earlier return to school.
3. Families/students are required to follow the mandated quarantine requirements issued by the Governor as an executive order on July 21, 2020. This includes not attending school during the 14-day required period, upon arrival to Connecticut from a State on the travel advisory list. A list of States can be found here: CT Travel Advisory
4. In order to ensure the safety of all students and staff, irregular visits to our school clinics will be strictly triaged. During the current emergency health pandemic, our clinics will not be treating conditions such as: typical bug bites, chapped lips, minor scratches, loose teeth, old injuries, etc. Classrooms will be equipped with basic first aid materials and supplies. **Please send your child to school with the proper treatments for any of the above or similar conditions.**
5. The school district will report ANY suspected cases of COVID 19 for students or staff to the Ledge Light Health District. Please discuss with your child the importance of accurate reporting, as well as the accuracy of information he or she may share with classmates or school staff. All communication of suspected cases should be reported by the parent or guardian directly to the school nurse.

Flu shots are recommended by the Center for Disease Control.

Please see flyer on pages 9 and 10, or check the link below.

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/freeresources/general/strong-defense-against-flu.pdf>



Happy Fall!



Nurse Lori

DMSnurse@stoningtonschools.org

COVID-19: Quarantine vs. Isolation

QUARANTINE keeps someone who was in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 away from others.



If you had close contact with a person who has COVID-19



- Stay home until 14 days after your last contact.



- Check your temperature twice a day and watch for symptoms of COVID-19.



- If possible, stay away from people who are at higher-risk for getting very sick from COVID-19.



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7/20/2020 7AM

ISOLATION keeps someone who is sick or tested positive for COVID-19 without symptoms away from others, even in their own home.



If you are sick and think or know you have COVID-19



- Stay home until after
 - At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared **and**
 - At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication **and**
 - Symptoms have improved



If you tested positive for COVID-19 but do not have symptoms



- Stay home until after
 - 10 days have passed since your positive test



If you live with others, stay in a specific “sick room” or area and away from other people or animals, including pets. Use a separate bathroom, if available.

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

A Strong Defense Against Flu: Get Vaccinated!

FIGHT FLU



The best way to protect yourself and your loved ones against influenza (flu) is to get a flu vaccine every flu season. Flu is a contagious respiratory disease that can lead to serious illness, hospitalization, or even death. CDC recommends everyone six months and older get an annual flu vaccine.

What are some key reasons to get a flu vaccine?

- Every year, flu vaccination prevents illnesses, medical visits, hospitalizations, and deaths.
- Flu vaccination also is an important preventive tool for people with chronic health conditions. For example flu vaccination has been associated with lower rates of some cardiac events among in people with heart disease.
- Vaccinating pregnant women helps protect them from flu illness and hospitalization, and also has been shown to help protect the baby from flu infection for several months after birth, before the baby can be vaccinated.
- A [2017](#) study showed that flu vaccine can be life-saving in children.
- While some people who get vaccinated still get sick, flu vaccination has been shown in several studies to reduce severity of illness.



Why is it important to get a flu vaccine EVERY year?

- Flu viruses are constantly changing, so flu vaccines may be updated from one season to the next to protect against the viruses that research suggests will be common during the upcoming flu season.
- Your protection from a flu vaccine declines over time. Yearly vaccination is needed for the best protection.



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

What kinds of flu vaccines are recommended?

There are several licensed and recommended flu vaccine options this season:

- Standard dose flu shots made from virus grown in eggs.
- Shots made with adjuvant and high dose for older adults.
- Shots made with virus grown in cell culture instead of eggs.
- Shots made using a recombinant vaccine production technology that does not require the use of a flu virus.
- Live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV, the nasal spray vaccine), which is made with live, weakened influenza viruses. It is an option for people 2 through 49 years of age who are not pregnant.



CS HCVG-15-FLU-108 09/11/2020

Is the flu vaccine safe?

Flu vaccines have a good safety record. Hundreds of millions of Americans have safely received flu vaccines over the past 50 years. Extensive research supports the safety of seasonal flu vaccines. Each year, CDC works with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and other partners to ensure the highest safety standards for flu vaccines. More information about the safety of flu vaccines is available at www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/vaccine/vaccinesafety.htm.

What are the side effects of flu vaccines?

Flu shots: Flu shots are made using killed flu viruses (for inactivated vaccines), or without flu virus at all (for the recombinant vaccine). So, you cannot get flu from a flu shot. Some minor side effects that may occur include soreness, redness and/or swelling where the shot was given, low grade fever, and aches.

Nasal spray flu vaccines: The viruses in nasal spray flu vaccines are weakened and do not cause the severe symptoms often associated with influenza illness. For adults, side effects from the nasal spray may include runny nose, headache, sore throat, and cough. For children, side effects may also include wheezing, vomiting, muscle aches, and fever.

If these problems occur, they are usually mild and go away on their own, but serious reactions are also possible. Almost all people who receive flu vaccine have no serious problems from it.

When and Where to get vaccinated?

You should get a flu vaccine by the end of October. However, as long as flu viruses are circulating, vaccination should continue throughout flu season, even in January or later.

Flu vaccines are offered in many doctors' offices and clinics. Flu vaccine is available in many other locations, including health departments, pharmacies, urgent care clinics, health centers, and travel clinics. Vaccines may also be offered at your school, college health center, or workplace. Visit: www.vaccinefinder.org at to find a flu vaccination clinic near you.

For more information, visit: www.cdc.gov/flu or call **1-800-CDC-INFO**

Dear Families and Friends of Deans Mill School,

As you know the PTO works hard each year to bring your child great activities and events, as well as purchase many supplies for Deans Mill School.

With this being such an unusual time in everyone's lives, we need to limit the ways we can raise funds for our school and stay safe.

The funds raised through the Annual Appeal are often what allow us to go beyond the basics and provide materials and experiences that further enrich your child's education. This of course is only made possible by the generous support of our parents.

What does the PTO provide funds for?

Some of the great things DMS PTO has provided the past years included:

- ~Assemblies for Cultural Enrichment \$3000.
- ~Author & Illustrator Day \$2,000.
- ~Books for the School Library and Classrooms
- ~Field Trips for all grades \$8,500.
- ~Ice Cream Social at end of year
- ~Kindergarten Orientation
- ~Movie Nights
- ~Recess equipment for all grades
- ~Math & Science Fair
- ~Science and Technology Day \$1,500.
- ~Teacher supplies \$5,000.
- ~Teacher & Staff appreciation days

To double a donation without spending more money, many companies match employee donations made to nonprofit organizations such as DMS PTO.

The Annual Appeal runs throughout the year.

The PTO is dedicated to making Deans Mill School better than ever, but we need your help. Please consider a gift to the DMS PTO to support and enrich our children's education. We would like to thank you in advance for your donation.

Sincerely,

Katie Quinlan
President
DMS PTO

Jenni Adkins
Vice President
DMS PTO

Jennifer Flynn
Secretary
DMS PTO

Tracy Brunelle
Treasurer
DMS PTO
Annual Appeal Chair

P.S. Let friends and extended family members know about our Appeal so they can help too!

P T O



EARN CASH FOR YOUR SCHOOL

LITTLE BY LITTLE WE CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE.

The Box Tops mobile app uses state-of-the-art technology to scan your store receipt, find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to your school's earnings online.

LOOK FOR THE LABEL:



HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:



BUY

BOX TOPS PRODUCTS

You can find Box Tops on hundreds of products throughout the store.



SCAN

YOUR RECEIPT

Use the app to snap a photo of your receipt within 14 days of purchase.



EARN

CASH FOR YOUR SCHOOL

Box Tops earnings are identified and automatically updated online.

SHOPPING FOR GROCERIES ONLINE?

You can still earn Box Tops for your school with your e-receipt!

See how at [BTFE.com/emailgroceryreceipts](https://www.btfec.com/emailgroceryreceipts)



BOX TOPS CLIPS

You may occasionally find an old Box Tops clip on packages in stores. **You can still clip them and send them to school**, as long as each clip has a valid expiration date.

SEE PRODUCTS & LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BOX TOPS APP AT [BTFE.COM](https://www.btfec.com)

DON'T HAVE THE BOX TOPS APP YET? DOWNLOAD IT NOW:



Help bring joy this season

Buy your gifts at smile.amazon.com
or with AmazonSmile ON in the app
and Amazon donates
amazonsmile



Make a difference this holiday!

Shop for gifts at smile.amazon.com/ch/20-1092780
to generate donations for Deans Mill Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization

About AmazonSmile

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. You can choose from over one million organizations to support.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com on your web browser or activate AmazonSmile on your Amazon Shopping app on your iOS or Android phone (found under settings on your app). On your browser, you may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile. When you're using the app, always check for the "AmazonSmile" logo to ensure you're activated for AmazonSmile.

How do I activate AmazonSmile on my Amazon Shopping app?

AmazonSmile customers on Android devices with version 5.0+ or iOS devices with version 12+, who have upgraded to the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app can find "AmazonSmile" listed in the Settings menu. From there, you can follow onboarding instructions to activate AmazonSmile on your device.

Do I need to renew AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile renewals happen twice a year to help keep AmazonSmile on mobile app. AmazonSmile will notify you of these renewals via push notifications and through in-app notifications. If you miss a renewal you can reactivate at any time by repeating the steps to "turn on" AmazonSmile on your mobile device. There is no renewal period for browser shopping on AmazonSmile, which you can use anytime by typing 'smile.amazon.com' into your browser.

Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?

Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.

Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.