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## Supt. Update 3-10-21

1 message

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March 10, 2021

Dear DCS Parents, Students, and Staff,

When we announced the plan to phase Anchor/Beacon students in five days per week starting March 15th, Wylie students on March 22nd, and Creekside students on April 5th, we were working to thoughtfully phase in our students and give us time to work through some final logistics. At the time, we also shared that we would stay on a hybrid at 7-12 for the time being. We were looking at moving to more frequency in mid-April or later April at 7-12 if the trends continued in case rates. According to professional guidance, if the cases moved below 10 per 100,000, it is safe to move to more frequency and increased student density. The cases have been falling consistently for weeks and are currently down to 11.5 per 100,000 in the county (and much lower in the DCS district boundaries). Thirty days ago the case rates were closer to 29 per 100,000. The decrease has been significant and they will soon be well-under 10 cases per 100,000.

Meanwhile, late last week, the Michigan Senate and House passed a series of bills and budgets to distribute stimulus dollars and state aid dollars that have been tied up from school funding. In the legislation, they passed a section calling for schools to offer at least 20 hours of in-person instruction to students starting no later than March 22nd. This legislation impacts DCS by nearly \$830,000. That legislation was signed yesterday and prompts us to move up our timelines. We were planning to continue to increase more in-person instruction in two to three weeks regardless of this new legislation. We believe we can safely make some small changes to meet the requirements now and continue with the remainder of our previously planned expansion in April. We have decided to move up some of our timelines that are being supported by lower rates in our area.

After significant considerations, here are the new plans:

- **Anchor/Beacon Homeroom** students will move to 5-days per week of in-person instruction starting **Monday, March 15th** with school starting at 8:30 a.m. and drop off between 8:15-8:30 a.m. The school day will end at 3:05 p.m. with a rolling dismissal starting at 2:50 p.m. The schools will continue to use Driveline (the parent pickup system we've used this year). Home-based students will remain home-based.
- **Wylie and Creekside Homeroom** students will move to 5-days per week of in-person instruction starting **Monday, March 22nd** with school starting at 8:30 a.m. and drop off between 8:15-8:30 a.m. The school day will end at 3:05 p.m. with staggered pickup times starting at 2:50 p.m. The schools will continue to use Driveline (the parent pickup system we've used this year). Home-based students will remain home-based. We initially planned to bring Creekside students in starting a week (of school time) later so we're moving it up one week.
- **Mill Creek Homeroom** students will continue on their A/B Day hybrid schedule with new times beginning on March 15th as previously planned. School will start at 8:30 a.m. Drop off will be from 8:15 - 8:30 a.m., and doors will open at 8:15 am. The school day will end at 3:05 p.m. Starting on **Wednesday, March 24th**, Mill Creek students who would like to attend In-person Learning Labs can attend from 8:15 - 3:05 p.m. on Wednesdays. Bus transportation for Wednesdays will be provided through the same bus routes as the other days of the week. **Parents will be asked to notify us if their child plans to attend via a building sign-up form that is being sent out tomorrow morning so we can plan accordingly.** Lunch will be provided as it is on other days. Sometime after April 12th or April 19th, we will likely be moving to more in-person days at Mill Creek with more students in the building at one time. Currently, we have a significant number of Mill Creek students in quarantine due to extracurricular activity exposures. We will use the coming weeks to work through safety protocols for a safer return to more days of in-person learning. Please look forward to further information from the building in the coming days.
- **Dexter High School:** Starting Monday, March 15th, DHS courses will run from 8:45 - 2:45 on the current A/B schedule. Bus routes will be moved back to one run for all Dexter students instead of running the second AM bus run for high school students as we initially planned. Routes times will be available on the DCS website by the end of this week.

*(please see next page for additional DHS details)*

### **Additional DHS Details:**

- **Starting Monday, March 22nd**, DHS current home-based students will remain home-based in order to maintain class sizes that we are using to plan spacing based on current attendance. Another opportunity to move from Home-based to Homeroom will be made available in late April. Only current homeroom students may choose to attend on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays or choose to zoom into the courses. Classes will run from 8:45 - 2:45 on M/Tu/Th/F. Wednesdays will remain used for office hours and asynchronous learning.
- To be clear, the max class sizes look to be around 27 in some classes while most are 20 or lower. We will work to keep 3' - 6' spacing between students in classes. We will work to keep 6' seat distance during lunches but this will include seating for lunch outside of the cafeteria as the space does not allow enough students in at one time. We have established alternate seating areas for lunches.
- There will be a change to the schedule during the week of April 12th to accommodate SAT/PSAT9/PSAT10/WorkKeys/MStep Testing. The test regulations will require a change in spacing in order to space students and proctor the tests according to test regulations. This is important in order to not invalidate student SAT scores for college admissions.
- We also have a significant number of DHS students in quarantine tied to extracurricular activities. Please use extra diligence to keep everyone safe so we can continue to increase opportunities for in-person learning for students.

Other than the Mill Creek delayed phase-in, this will be the last change for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.

**Transportation:** If you would like bus transportation for your child, we are asking that you notify us via the [Transportation Registration](#) form on the district website. This allows us to update routes and seat assignments prior to students arriving at the bus stop. We also need this information to help balance bus routes and modify routes as needed in order to avoid overcrowding on buses.

**Spring Break Travel:** Please look for a letter in the coming days regarding spring break travel. We have been working with the Washtenaw County Health Department on a consistent message from all county schools. The final version is forthcoming and likely will be sent by the end of the week.

**Food Distribution Over Spring Break:** We will plan to continue Meal Kit distribution over spring break week on March 29th from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Mill Creek.

Thank you for your patience, flexibility and continued support.

Take care and Go Dreads!

Sincerely,

Christopher Timmis, EdD  
Superintendent

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