



IMPORTANT - VIRTUAL ENROLLMENT FOR FALL 2021

1 message

Dear DCS Parents, Students, and Staff,

Last night, the DCS Board of Education approved COVID-19 mitigation measures for the 2021-2022 school year. The plan includes mask requirements for all students when we start school this year, based on the current level of community spread rates. Students will have at least 3' of spacing at lunch at Anchor, Beacon, Wylie, Creekside, and Mill Creek. At the high school, students will have availability of seats at 3' spacing. A full copy of the plan is [available at this link](#).

Now that we have a formal decision on protocols for the fall, we are providing families with an opportunity to select a remote option. After listening to community feedback and considering staffing constraints, we are asking families who desire a virtual option to commit through either January or for the entire school year. **The rest of this message is primarily for families considering enrolling their student(s) in the virtual open for fall 2021.**

For students in grades K-6, our virtual program utilizes Lincoln Learning for the academic content. We know that academics is one part of the school experience. Lincoln Learning provides a rich virtual environment and learning opportunities. For students who select that option, DCS will provide a DCS teacher for daily community-building connections and student mentorship. Layering in a Dexter teacher will provide opportunities to develop the other important skills that are learned in school – things such as social, emotional, and behavioral skills and community connectedness. This layer will likely involve multi-age groupings of students who meet via zoom for a daily class meeting. However, this option is available for full-remote only and students will not have the option to attend in-person for specials like art, music, etc.

In grades 7-12, DCS has always offered either Lincoln Learning or Michigan Virtual for students. DCS provides a Dexter teacher mentor to work as a liaison between the students and the course instructors.

Families who would like to enroll in one of our virtual options will need to [complete this survey](#) by Monday, August 23rd in order for us to make the appropriate class changes and staffing adjustments to support the transition. This will be your official selection for Fall 2021. Students enrolled in one of our virtual options will be given the opportunity to move from remote to in-person learning in January (at the semester change). We will need families to make a decision in November if they want to move to in-person in January. This will provide DCS with the time to make appropriate staffing changes and support student success.

We know this is a change from what we were able to offer last school year. Last year, the legislature and the Michigan Department of Education provided significant flexibility to schools to offer remote options that are no longer available to us this school year. As a result, we're able to provide virtual programming similar to what we provided pre-pandemic while layering in community-building supports that we developed last school year.

Thank you for your continued support, take care, and Go Dreads!

Sincerely,

Christopher Timmis, EdD
Superintendent