

DELPHOS CITY SCHOOLS

Wildcat Newsletter

January 2021

IMPACT OF COVID 19

2020 has brought challenges never seen before by school districts, both in terms of educational delivery and fiscal uncertainty. The pandemic has forced teaching to occur in person, hybrid, and remotely over the past ten months.

In response to the economic downturn, the Governor reduced state funding to K12 education at the end of the 19-20 school year by \$300 million, which equated to a loss of \$240K for our district. Based on the most recent economic reports, we project state funding will be frozen at that reduced level for the foreseeable future. We also anticipate a slight increase in property tax delinquencies, a reduction in investment income, and a reduction in other fees for service such as extracurricular revenue.

This past year we experienced a higher number of retirements, we are operating with fewer staff members, and reduced spending on professional development and travel to help offset the loss of state funding. We will continue to review spending to control costs but we will always adapt and thrive.

Thanks to the passage of the income tax levy, strong fiscal management, and responsible planning, we will get through this crisis. We have much to look forward to here at Delphos City Schools. Our staff is doing a tremendous job in their modified roles during this crisis, and together we will get through this.

Doug Westrick, Superintendent



THANK YOU DELPHOS:

By now you may have noticed that the Delphos City School district income taxes have begun being withheld from your paycheck. This tax does not come directly to DCS. It is sent to the State Department of Taxation for collections and redistribution. The school district will not begin receiving distributions until April of 2021. According to the Department of taxation DCS should receive between 4 and 8 percent (on average 5.9%) of the first year estimation. Starting fiscal year 2021 the district will then begin to receive quarterly distributions throughout the year. DCS will receive income tax funds in July, October, January, and April each year.

Brad Rostorfer, Treasurer

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Over the past several years, the board has placed a focus on improving our technology. For the most part, that has meant chromebooks for students and recently we have begun to replace outdated teacher computers. However, with the new chromebooks and computers, we have been experiencing internet connectivity issues in our buildings. Basically, the newer technology did not align with the outdated servers in our buildings. These internet access points have become very outdated and many students and staff struggle to log on to the internet. This year, we replaced all the internet access points in the high school and also added additional access points to include all classrooms. We are now in the process of recycling the most compatible of those access points and replacing the oldest of those in the middle school. We understand that this is not a long term solution for the middle school and we will need to address this in the near future.

Doug Westrick, Superintendent

YEAR END MAINTENANCE

Over the past few months we have been busy finalizing maintenance items that were identified back in the spring as a part of our preventative maintenance plan. At the end of October, the high school landscaping received a fresh makeover. Old bushes and shrubs were removed and new plants were planted. Mulch was added around the high school building, Career Center and digital sign board.

We also began working to address the inconsistent heating issues at Franklin Elementary. Contractors began by replacing heating control valves in the hallway heaters. We started with a couple rooms that are continually hotter than they should be. It was determined that we had the same issue in both rooms. The problem was not allowing the damper to open properly to bring in the correct amount of outside air to keep the room regulated. This combined with the extremely warm water circulating caused the units to not be able to remain at the set temperature. This will be an ongoing project. These projects are being paid for through district Permanent Improvement Funds, which are supported by levy issues passed specifically for these types of projects.

Doug Westrick, Superintendent

DJHS & RHODES STATE STEM 3P GRANT

Beginning in January 2021, Delphos Jefferson and the Career Center will be the hub and model of a two year commitment with Rhodes State University to provide select students the opportunity to earn, tuition free, a Patient Care Technician (PCT) certification. PCT Lab classes will be held each Thursday from 12-3 PM in the Career Center in which a mock hospital room will be assembled.

A Patient Care Technician is a healthcare technician working under the supervision of a nurse, doctor, or other health professional to administer basic care to patients. PCT's are an entry level job opportunity that is in high demand. The certificate is also a resume builder and means for students to network and build their brand. Eleven (11) Delphos Jefferson upperclassmen have applied for the 24 openings in the program. Other schools participating as members in the cohort are Delphos St. Johns, Elida, Fort Jennings, Lincolnview, Miller City, Ottoville and Spencerville.

The program is the foundation for a vision that includes (1) growing partnerships with area hospitals/businesses, (2) creating a employment pipeline for the area medical employers, (3) showcasing DJHS and CCSC, and offering STNA and other in demand job training for the area students and adults.

Chad Brinkman, Jefferson High School Principal

STAY CONNECTED

Receive the latest updates on school delays, cancellations, and announcements by subscribing to our text alert system by visiting our website and clicking the Text Alert Sign Up tab on the homepage. You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter @DjWildats

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Delphos City Schools Board of Education
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2021-2022 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

If you have a child that will be 5 years old before August 1, 2021 and intend to enroll in kindergarten for the 2021-2022 school year, please pick up a registration packet and schedule a screening assessment appointment for your child at Franklin Elementary School office the week February 1st - 5th between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. All students who are enrolling in kindergarten are required to complete a registration packet and participate in a screening assessment. Information concerning the screening will be mailed in March for all students who have registered with the elementary office. If you have further questions regarding kindergarten registration or screening, please contact the Franklin Elementary office at (419) 692-8766.

Bob Hohlbein, Franklin Elementary Principal