



DEXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Superintendent Letter January 29, 2023

1 message

January 29, 2023

Dear DCS Parents, Students, and Staff,

Winter officially showed up in Michigan! We know January has felt a bit disjointed with the snow days added onto the planned flow of school for the month. Thank you for your patience as we work through the start of winter. The coming weeks look to provide kids with a consistent flow of school days and we are thankful that everyone can settle into a routine.

DCS has several important upcoming community dates for conversation and community learning to support our kids. Please see details below:

What is school for? DCS is committed to supporting all of our students and working in collaboration with our families to educate our students. Over the history of our school district, we often take a moment to step back and have deep conversations about our school district and what our kids need from us. **On Thursday, February 2nd at 7:00 p.m. and Thursday, March 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the Mill Creek cafeteria**, we would like to have a community conversation to explore the question "What is school for?" The conversation will start by looking at a brief history of public education, current trends impacting education, and then focusing on what our community wants from our schools. This will likely take more than two meetings but we want to set up the first two dates for this deep conversation. We hope you can join us in a conversation about public education, in general, and specific to DCS.

How do students learn to read? Every student needs to learn to read. Over the years, reading research and trends have shaped reading instruction throughout the country and our district. In recent years, DCS has been following and learning from the newest research on how students learn to read while making the appropriate shifts in our classrooms. In March of 2020, the day schools shut down, we conducted a full training focused on the newest research on how students learn to read. Since then, we've continued training and making changes based on the newest research to best support all students. **On Tuesday, March 7th at 6:00 p.m. in the Dexter High School Center for Performing Arts**, we invite all parents and interested community members to a presentation and discussion on the Science of Reading and an update on how DCS is utilizing this research to best support our students. We will be joined by a national researcher for the session. Participants will learn about the science of how kids learn to read, including a simulation of how the brain learns to read, and an update on how DCS is responding to the newest research. We planned the session at 6:00 p.m. so parents of our youngest students can be home early enough for bedtime for their students. We hope you can join us!

Assistant Strength/Conditioning/Agility help needed: As a result of the incredible success of the Iron Dread Strength and Conditioning program, there is a need to add additional personnel to support the program. The ideal candidate will be willing to learn and utilize our current conjugate method of training that has yielded significant positive results for our student-athletes and programs. In general, the program runs during the school year M-F from 6:30 - 8:00 a.m. and after school from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Over holiday breaks, the program often is held from 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. During the summer, the program runs from 8:00 a.m. - noon. The Assistant Strength and Conditioning Coordinator would be anticipated to initially work sessions equalling approximately 10 hours per week. The number of hours may increase over time after the initial training phase. If you are interested, please contact Mike Bavineau at bavineaum@dexterschools.org.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our kids and Go Dreads!

Sincerely,

Christopher Timmis, EdD

Superintendent