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PRESS RELEASE

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Dade County Moves First Day of School to August 13, 2020

Dr. Jan Irons Harris, Superintendent, announced, “After much deliberation, the start date for Dade County’s students will be August 13th for all students. The original first day of school was set for August 7th. All other dates remain correct as shown on the official 2020-2021 Calendar.” Open House dates will be held on August 5th and 6th as previously scheduled.

The Dade County Team is united in its desire to have schools remain open once students return to school during the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, administrators and teachers agreed that additional days were needed for preparation and training. A new Virtual School is in place for Dade County students and educators are receiving training in the new APEX and Schools PLP learning platforms. Approximately 16% of students opted for the first-ever Virtual School while the remainder of students plan to attend Traditional School five days a week.

DES Principal Tracy Blevins stated, “Faculty and Staff members are appreciative of the extra days to prepare for our students’ return. Parents have told us they understand the tremendous stress educators are facing in this challenging time, and they appreciate our efforts on their behalf.”

Teachers and staff members are establishing new protocols while incorporating the recommendations from the CDC, GaDOE and DPH, and they are receiving safety training. Classrooms and learning spaces are being reconfigured to meet the needs of this new environment.

Dr. Harris said, “On behalf of the Board of Education, I want to thank our stakeholders for their support during this unprecedented time. We are doing the very best we can for our boys and girls to ensure that their needs are met through partnerships with local, state and federal agencies. We believe, like the Georgia School Boards Association, that the best control is local control. Therefore, we will continue to work with our families, and together, we will do what is best for Dade County.”

Additional information about the Reopening Plans for Dade County can be found on the website at www.dadecs.org