



DEXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Christopher Timmis, Ed.D., Superintendent
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November 18, 2016

Dear DCS Parents and Students,

The elections are over and, in true Michigan weather fashion, it'll feel like summer today and winter tomorrow. I'd like to take this opportunity to share some thoughts, provide a few quick announcements, and remind families how we make weather cancellation decisions.

Over the past several weeks, schools across the country have been experiencing students not treating each other well. Our expectation of Dexter students is to that they continue treating each other with dignity and respect. Every student deserves to feel safe at school. We have comprehensive positive behavior support systems in our schools and do not tolerate bullying or harassment. We are committed to helping every one of our students feel safe and accepted. At home, we ask that you have a conversation with your children about ways they can demonstrate respect for others and help foster a safe, friendly, and inclusive environment for everyone. Meanwhile, we will continue to support our students in a positive manner to maintain a welcoming learning community. Our culture of acceptance is one cornerstone of what makes Dexter a special place for kids.

With the forecast for our first winter-like weather tomorrow, I'd like to give a quick reminder of our weather decision protocols. When the area is impacted by snow, ice, or fog, we first consider the safety of students traveling to/from school. The criteria includes the ability for buses to travel on the roads, the safety of students at the bus stops, the safety of cars traveling on the roads and, in the case of students walking to school, the outside temperature as students head to school. If the wind chill dips to the negative 25-degree range, please be aware that we may need to cancel school. At that temperature, the risk to our students standing at bus stops or walking to school greatly outweighs the need to have students in school for the day. Please make sure your children dress appropriately for the cold temperatures.

In the case of a cancellation, we will be notifying families in a variety of ways. We will notify the Detroit Television and Radio Stations, send a phone alert through our emergency calling system, post the closing on our website, and we will post the closing on Facebook at www.facebook.com/dread.strong. In general, we also utilize Twitter to send out information (each school's Twitter handle is on their homepage). If you changed phone numbers since the start of the school year, please inform your child's school office. The emergency calling system downloads phone numbers on a regular basis from our student information system (Power School) at each building.



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Now, a few quick announcements:

- E4DS recently donated \$42,000 generated by parent donations to DCS. Here's a quick article from MLive describing some of the activities funded by this generous donation: http://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2016/11/new_enrichment_coordinators_ch.html#incart_river_index
- The recent DCS School Board Election is finalized. Dick Lundy, Dr. Daryl Kipke, and Dr. Julie Schumaker were all reelected to the DCS Board. Thank you to all candidates interested in serving our students and our community.
- Judge Swartz set a final restitution amount for Brian Tungl of \$309,123 owed to DCS and our insurance carrier for his embezzlement of technology from the district. We are already in receipt of most of the funds through our employee dishonesty insurance coverage and continue to provide technology for our students to enhance their learning opportunities. That being said, we are dedicated to being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars and will not tolerate dishonesty. Our internal controls showed a problem with an employee and we followed through with the justice system to make the district whole. Thank you for your continued support and trust that we will always act appropriately on behalf of our students and our community.
- We have a short week coming up with a full day on Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday, November 23rd is a half-day for all students and staff.

Thank you for your continued support, have a Happy Thanksgiving, and Go Dreadnaughts!

Sincerely,

Christopher Timmis, Ed.D.
Superintendent