



DEXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Christopher Timmis, Ed.D., Superintendent
7714 Ann Arbor Street, Dexter, Michigan 48130
(734) 424-4100 ext.1001 fax (734) 424-4112
timmisc@dexterschools.org

September 27, 2018

Dear Dexter Families and Staff,

Last school year, we conducted several professional surveys of our students. We have been analyzing the data and are making internal changes based on the results. One of the findings demonstrates a need to focus on student mental health. This is not a surprise to anyone who has worked with students and/or followed national trends. However, it is an area that we must continue to focus on for our kids. As a district, we only have students for 1100 hours per year and need the entire community's support in making sure our kids grow into healthy and happy adults.

Our first initiative to work with the community is a community book study focused on student mental health. The book we plan to begin with is written by Dr. David Gleason: ["At What Cost? Defending Adolescent Development in Fiercely Competitive Schools."](#) While we don't believe we are a "fiercely competitive school," many of the book's examples mirror experiences we've shared in Dexter. If you would like a copy of the book and to participate in the community book study, please let us know by filling out the form at: <https://goo.gl/forms/uXmNNP0ZzKh1reL42>. The books will be provided for free to interested community members. As a parent and educator, I found this book to be incredibly insightful and it really caused me to reflect on how we are raising our kids in today's world.

Our kickoff for the book study will be a presentation by Dr. Gleason on **Tuesday, December 4th at 6:00 p.m. in the High School CPA**. The presentation is ideal for any parent of a child of any age and is open to the community. We're asking you to take 2-3 hours of your time to help understand how to better support your child(ren) and the kids in our community. Thank you for considering this.

On an unrelated note, below is a quick bond update:

- The new elementary construction is moving along. Furniture is ordered and the target completion date is still December of 2018. The naming of the new elementary construction is still under consideration. At Monday's Board of Education meeting, the Board requested that we solicit input on naming. The process for input will be finalized in coming weeks.
- The new Collaboration Lab and future home of the Alternative Education program is being constructed on Shield Road and is also planned to be completed sometime this winter.
- Field construction continues. We experienced significant approval delays outside of our control which postponed construction. Turf is currently being installed at the twin turf fields at DHS and will hopefully be completed in coming weeks. Three turf crews are on site working as quickly as possible to complete their part of the construction. The quad softball/baseball fields at Creekside are also being completed and are still expected to be playable in the spring.
- Bids for renovations at Wylie and Mill Creek (new band room, etc.) should be finalized and approved by the Board in October.

Sincerely,

Christopher Timmis, Ed.D.
Superintendent