October 15, 2018

Dear Dexter Families and Staff,

We are so fortunate to have such amazing students, teachers, administrators, and staff. One of those incredible educators is currently being recognized in Washington, DC. Craig McCalla, Cornerstone Elementary Principal, has been recognized as a 2018 National Distinguished Principal by the National Association of Elementary School Principals. Congratulations to Mr. McCalla!!!

The Dexter Community Schools Board of Education has two seats up for election in November. Three candidates are running for the two seats. Dick Lundy, Rob Mitzel, and Mara Greatorex are all on the ballot. A Board Candidate Forum will be held on Monday, October 15th at 7:00 p.m. in the Creekside Media Center. For more information on the candidates, please visit the voter guide website.

In an effort to increase communication with our families, DCS has a new app. Please visit the App Store of Google Plan and search for Dexter CSD to download the app. Direct links are also included below.

**iTunes:**

**Google Play:**

**Mobile Web App:**
https://dexterschools.parentlink.net/m

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**Community Book Study Reminder:** Our kickoff to the book study on adolescent mental health will take place on **Tuesday, December 4th at 6:00 p.m. in the high school CPA** with a presentation by Dr. David Gleason. The book is titled “At What Cost? Defending Adolescent Development in Fiercely Competitive Schools.” While we don’t believe we are a “fiercely competitive school,” many of the examples outlined by the author 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 google form at: https://goo.gl/forms/zlzjmjb5RJlIRMYQB3. We’ve ordered copies and plan to begin distributing them in the next few weeks. The books will be provided for free to community members who are interested and are
appropriate for parents with children of any age. As a parent and educator, I found the book to be incredibly insightful and caused me to reflect on how we are raising our kids in today's world.

**Construction** continues to move along throughout the district. Photos are included later in this letter.

- Bids to remodel sections of Wylie Elementary School are planned for approval at the next Board of Education meeting. The plan is to create a new secure entrance and relocate the office to the main entrance area. The main office will be renovated into classroom space. Work will start this school year and is scheduled to be completed by the start of school in September of 2019.
- Bids to remodel Mill Creek are also planned for approval at the next Board of Education meeting. The plan is to add a new band room attached to what is now the existing orchestra room. Once completed, orchestra will move into the existing band room. In addition, four flexible learning spaces will be added to the back of the building in a 2-story addition with two rooms on each floor. Choir will be located in the second floor flexible learning space addition. The work will begin this school year and are scheduled to be completed by the start of school in September of 2019.
- The New Elementary construction is still moving along as planned. The hope is to have the building completed by the end of the 2018 calendar year. We are beginning to discuss plans for moving students from Bates Elementary sometime this school year. Once plans are finalized, we will communicate dates for the change and transition plans.
- The twin turf fields are almost complete. Photos from this week are included later in this document.

Thank you for your continued support, have a great weekend, and Go Dreads!!!

Sincerely,

Christopher Timmis, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Craig McCalla (2018 National Distinguished Principal):

New Elementary School Construction:
Twin Turf Fields: