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## Superintendent Letter

April 2, 2019

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Dear Dexter Families and Staff,

I hope everyone had a wonderful spring break and welcome back. Below are a few updates and information items for all families and staff regarding planning for the future for our kids, the next steps in the community book study on mental health, a calendar reminder on a make-up day for students, and a brief construction update.

**Strategic Planning Next Steps:** Since 2015, DCS has been implementing a strategic plan that continues to guide us toward our vision - Champion Learning: Develop, Educate, and Inspire! As a result of this plan, we've worked to personalize learning for students, created innovative learning spaces, expanded our programming to serve students from birth through post-secondary, engaged the community in supporting our kids and learning with us, innovate on behalf of kids, and continue to improve the educational experiences for all kids in Dexter. The current plan is available on our website at [Strategic Framework](#).

Last winter, we engaged KnowledgeWorks to study our district and to help us work on our next Strategic Plan. On **Monday, April 15th at 6:00 p.m. in Creekside Room 311**, we are running a session with community members to help us analyze their findings from the recent work with families, students, and staff this winter. We need your help! If you can spare 2 hours of your time and provide us with your input on DCS current and future, please let us know. [Form for attending Strategic Planning on April 15th](#).

**Community Book Study Next Steps:** Since December, we've held multiple sessions focused on improving student mental health. Hundreds of community members and families have joined us for one or more of the sessions. The next phase of our work is to begin looking at the technical challenges and the adaptive changes we can make to best support our kids. We plan to meet on Wednesday, April 17th at 6:30 p.m. in the Mill Creek Cafeteria. This will be a working session focused on identifying technical and adaptive changes we can make that can have immediate positive impacts for our kids. Dr. Gleason plans to join us virtually for the session and we've been planning to take the work into the action phases. If you can join us, please let us know [Form for attending April 17th](#).

We've completed so much in the past year and the students are enjoying the New Dexter Early Elementary Complex, the flexible learning spaces, the twin turf fields at DHS, and many other changes with much more to come.

- The new Alternative Education building on Shield Road is nearly complete. This will be a wonderful space for a very unique program for our students.
- The quad softball/baseball complex on Baker Road is still underway and scheduled for completion in the next month or so. With the weather warming up, we hope to see grass growing in the near future.
- Construction of the new band room, choir room, flexible learning spaces, and orchestra spaces are moving along at Mill Creek. The plan is to have all of the spaces ready for kids when they return this fall.
- The new secure-entrance Wylie office is nearly complete. This summer, we'll relocate the existing office as we convert it into classroom space.
- We've fixed the gutters and drainage at Creekside!!! For anyone who has walked into the side doors to the gym over the past many years, the days of leaking gutters, ice and mud should be gone. Like many school construction projects, it is difficult to tell how much time, energy and cost went into fixing something that seemed so simple. After repairing the underground drainage, we were finally able to replace the gutter system and have somewhere for the water to run. These types of repairs are costly but important to maintain public facilities. Thank you so much for your support.

We're working on the next series of work and will continue to keep you updated as the projects move forward.

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

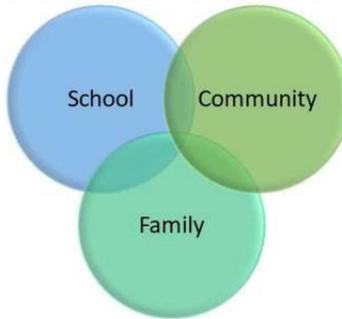
Sincerely,  
Christopher Timmis  
Superintendent, Dexter Community Schools



**We need your input!**

**You're Invited to our community forum on April 15th, 6-8pm in Creekside room 311**

What do we believe about teaching and learning? How can we make our learning community better and better?



*"65% of Today's students will be employed in Jobs that Don't Exist Yet."  
World Economic Forum's *The Future of Jobs Report**

2022 Skills Outlook	
<b>Growing</b>	<b>Declining</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 Analytical thinking and innovation</li><li>2 Active learning and learning strategies</li><li>3 Creativity, originality and initiative</li><li>4 Technology design and programming</li><li>5 Critical thinking and analysis</li><li>6 Complex problem-solving</li><li>7 Leadership and social influence</li><li>8 Emotional intelligence</li><li>9 Reasoning, problem-solving and ideation</li><li>10 Systems analysis and evaluation</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 Manual dexterity, endurance and precision</li><li>2 Memory, verbal, auditory and spatial abilities</li><li>3 Management of financial, material resources</li><li>4 Technology installation and maintenance</li><li>5 Reading, writing, math and active listening</li><li>6 Management of personnel</li><li>7 Quality control and safety awareness</li><li>8 Coordination and time management</li><li>9 Visual, auditory and speech abilities</li><li>10 Technology use, monitoring and control</li></ol>



Through our partnership with KnowledgeWorks, we examined these questions for continuous improvement, and have collected feedback through surveys and focus groups from all levels of the organization to learn about what our learning community is working towards, and what we can do better. From that feedback, KnowledgeWorks provided us a written report of the collected feedback in many essential areas for school success, some of which are described below. Now, it is your turn to review the results! We hope you can attend to help us look over the results, and continue to provide your feedback and thoughts about our next steps.

**VISION**

Each district has a shared vision that guides all decision making. All parts of a district are aligned to the vision, including professional development, the selection of curriculum and instructional practices, and the process of innovation. To ensure each person in the district understands their role in achieving the vision, it is to be shared between all involved in the education community, from board members to educators to community partners.

**CULTURE**

Key elements of building and sustaining an impactful culture include innovation, building student and staff leadership, embedding consistent and impactful celebrations of growth, and developing processes and procedures to sustain all levels of the system.

**TRANSPARENCY**

Every person that is part of the community is part of the school community too. We want to continuously improve how we communicate and build clarity with our families and community partners.

**TEACHING AND LEARNING**

What we believe about teaching and learning is aligned to the district's vision. Design and delivery of instruction are focused on teaching students how to learn, shifting from a teacher-led to student-led model incorporating differentiated methods and strategies. Finally, instruction is rigorous and relevant to students' needs and interests.

Download the Free  
Blackboard District  
App



- View news stories
- View calendar info
- View sports scores
- Access school and staff info
- Receive important alerts



## We have an app!

In an effort to increase communication with our families, **DCS has a new app**. Please visit the App Store or Google Play and search for Dexter CSD

- [iTunes](#)
- [Google Play](#)
- [Mobile Web App](#)

[www.dexterschools.org](http://www.dexterschools.org)