



DEXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Christopher Timmis, Ed.D., Superintendent
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April 2, 2020

Dear DCS Parents, Students, and Staff,

At 10:30 today, Governor Whitmer released a new Executive Order related to K-12 schools. The Executive Order is 17 pages in length and contains significant details that the DCS team must take time to process. What is clear from the Executive Order is the Dexter Community Schools (and students from around the State of Michigan) will not be physically returning to classes this school year.

Now that the Executive Order has been released, we know it will create a number of questions specific to everyone's unique scenarios. Before we hastily try to provide what most likely would be incomplete or potentially inaccurate answers, the DCS team will need to take the time to interpret and understand all of the parameters regarding the order.

That being said, we will continue our plans to have each teacher reach out to students on or before April 7th with Enrichment/Engagement activities.

The preliminary information that is being shared is:

- **High school Seniors** who were in good standing and on track to graduate will still graduate this school year. Details and processes regarding this step still need to be evaluated and implemented. For **high school Seniors** who were not 100% confident they met the graduation requirements prior to the school closures, a DHS staff member will contact you once we've worked through the details and processes related to this situation. Communication will be forthcoming from the high school once we have time to process the Executive Order and any policy changes implicated. Please do not panic or send emails to our staff until we've had time to work through the Executive Order and implications. **Parents of high school Seniors** will receive communication from the high school once we are clear on next steps.
- All grades will move on to the next grade level in the Fall. We understand that some competencies may not be met over this time period and teachers will adjust accordingly over the next couple of months and when we are able to return this Fall.
- This will obviously impact spring sports and other activities. We understand that many of you have already paid for spring sports or other activities. We will work on plans for reimbursement once we hear the MHSAA's plan for spring sports. It will take us significant time to work through this process. Please be patient with us as we are also working remotely and sorting through an unprecedented situation.
- Typical end of the year activities will likely be canceled such as the Mill Creek Cedar Point Trip. A full list of activities that will be canceled or a new method for the event is created will be sent in a later communication.
- We know that the school-day SAT for Juniors will not be held as planned. We will update you once we know what the Michigan Legislature does to address the cancelation of the test.

At this time we need to process the details of the Executive Order. We have been preparing for a variety of scenarios and do not want to announce any action we will be taking until we have time to accurately understand the details of the Executive Order. Please know that DCS staff has been working extremely hard behind the scenes for weeks for a variety of outcomes and will be ready for whatever comes down from the state.



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We are continuing to gauge the needs of the district in relation to access to technology. We are currently configuring devices to use outside of our buildings and provide updates to software and other variables. If we move to a system of remote learning during the closure, it is important that we provide access to all families. We are also developing some backup options for families that simply cannot get internet access from an infrastructure standpoint out of our control.

We know that some students still have items such as instruments, medication, and personal items at the schools. We are working on plans for families to retrieve these items that does not endanger the health and safety of staff and families.

We understand such a change in the world is extremely stressful. Our hearts go out to those that are already experiencing financial and/or health challenges due to this pandemic. Please continue to focus on your health and families' well being. The Dexter community has a reputation for being compassionate and looking out for our neighbors. Throughout the last few weeks, we have exceeded this reputation as we witnessed acts of kindness overflowing in this community. We are very proud to be a part of this community and together we can pull through this situation.

While we have an extensive list of items we need to address through this unprecedented situation, know we have not thought of everything. We are asking for your thoughts and input to help us navigate this unprecedented situation.

DCS Parents: We are asking if you would please take a moment to participate in a ThoughtExchange Survey. The survey question is:

As we manage the impact of COVID-19 and the Governor's decision to close schools for the remainder of the year, what are your biggest concerns and what do we need to be considering as a district?

You can participate in the survey by using the following links:

- <https://my.thoughtexchange.com/606831141> OR
- <https://my.thoughtexchange.com/scroll/606831141> OR
- Text the 9-digit code 606-831-141 to the phone number 728-55 to get a link to participate in this exchange

DCS Students: We need your help to guide our planning. We are asking that you take a few minutes to participate in a quick survey to answer the question:

What concerns do you have about the school closures? How can we support you?

You can participate in the survey by using the following links:

- <https://my.thoughtexchange.com/967209974> OR
- <https://my.thoughtexchange.com/scroll/967209974> OR
- Text the 9-digit code 967-209-974 to the phone number 728-55 to get a link to participate in this exchange



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Thank you for your continued support of our schools and for your trust in DCS to help support our students, families, and community through these challenging times. Please take care of each other, hug your loved ones, and stay safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher J. Timmis".

Christopher Timmis, Ed.D.
Superintendent