



DEXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Christopher Timmis, Ed.D., Superintendent
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April 7, 2020

Dear DCS Parents, Students, and Staff,

DCS has been hard at work creating a Learning Continuity Plan for our students. Your feedback on the survey has been instrumental in helping us understand your concerns as we finalize plans. Sometime today (or prior to today), every student was provided with this week's activities from teachers. We ask parents to partner with us on supporting your children. In grades 7-12, we are asking parents to please ask your child(ren) to log into her/his school email account which can be accessed via gmail and reply to their teachers if they have not already.

The [Washtenaw Superintendents Association](#) has worked collectively to provide guidance for all Washtenaw County School Districts on how to serve all students through this unprecedented situation. As we learn more about our "new normal" and ways to better serve the needs of students and families remotely, you will see our districts lean on each other as we amend our **Continuity of Learning Plans** for the collective good. Through collaboration, we hope to emerge from this as a stronger, more collaborative, supportive and equity-focused education community with a shared-commitment to all students.

Technology Distribution: DCS technology staff has been working to unpack chargers from carts and reconfigure our mobile device management software so we can pass devices out to any student who needs a device. Technology pickup will be held on the following days/times at each building:

- **Anchor Elementary** - iPads for Kindergarten through 2nd grade - **Tuesday, April 14th between 9 a.m - 11 a.m.** in the Anchor parking lot. We encourage K-2 families to pick up iPads for their students because they are preloaded with apps our teachers would like to use as part of the learning continuity plan. *Young 5 students will be provided devices at a later date as we currently do not utilize devices in their classrooms.*
- **Beacon Elementary** - iPads for Kindergarten through 2nd grade - **Tuesday, April 14th between Noon - 2 p.m.** in the Beacon parking lot. We encourage K-2 families to pick up iPads for their students because they are preloaded with apps our teachers would like to use as part of the learning continuity plan. *Young 5 students will be provided devices at a later date as we currently do not utilize devices in their classrooms.*
- **Wylie Elementary** - Chromebooks will be distributed on **Wednesday, April 15th between 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.** in the Wylie Parking Lot.
- **Creekside Intermediate** - Chromebooks will be distributed on **Wednesday, April 15th between 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.** in the Creekside Parking Lot.
- **Mill Creek Middle School** - Most students have their Chromebooks. If your student does not, please contact Ms. Bronson to arrange a pickup of the device.
- **Dexter High School** - We will be distributing Chromebooks to any DHS student who needs a device on **Friday, April 17th between 10 a.m. - Noon** in the loop by the flagpole at the front



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of the building. We do not have enough Chromebooks for all 1200 students but are aware that many of our students already own another device. If any student needs a device, we will provide a device.

Attached to this document is a summary of device pick-up procedures that will ensure efficient and safe distribution. Please review prior to pick-up, instructions vary by building.

All devices will be returned and collected the week of June 8th.

Internet Access: While we will have paper options available for families without internet access, DCS is fortunate to have devices available for students and a multitude of internet access options for families. We've worked for weeks on securing options to reach all families and made changes for public access. Below is a list of available options for students throughout the district. If you do not have internet at your home and need help navigating options, please call 734-424-4114 and we will have someone call you back to work through options. If we are unable to secure any option below, we were fortunate to receive approximately 40 mobile hotspots for use by a caring community member. We have also added additional capacity to our Wifi networks at Creekside, Wylie, and Mill Creek so the signal is strong enough to access in the parking lots. The Dexter Library has also provided outside access 24/7 to their wifi signal outside of the building. In a conversation with the Governor's office today, the Governor agreed that students/families accessing wifi outside of our buildings or other buildings while practicing social distancing for the purpose of virtual learning is permitted under her Executive Order. In addition, Xfinity has opened their local hotspots in Downtown Dexter. **We have compiled a list of known free wi-fi spots in Dexter, you can find it here: dexterschools.org/wifi.**

Other options available are:

- Comcast/Xfinity and Charter/Spectrum announced they will provide up to two months of free service for internet access to households with K-12 and college students and/or low-income households. More information is available at Comcast <https://www.internetessentials.com/covid19> or for [Charter/Spectrum](#).
- Comcast/Xfinity has opened their [WiFi hotspots](#) for public use. Some of these hotspots are available in Downtown Dexter.
- A few other options in the area to contact are:
 - ❑ For homes in the Scully Road area, there is a local wireless ISP that can be contacted at <https://www.websterbroadband.org>.
 - ❑ Providers can also be looked up at WISPA.org based on individual address.
 - ❑ Another provider in the area is Rural Reach at www.broadbandnow.com or www.ruralreach.com



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- ❑ Ezwisp will soon be able to support Lodi Township and some parts of Southwest Scio Township. They can be reached at <https://www.ezwisp.com/>
- While many cellular options are not the optimal in our district boundaries, AT&T has a “fixed wireless” offering that has better data caps than most in the area.
<https://www.att.com/internet/fixed-wireless>

How to Support Families in Need: Dexter is an incredibly caring community and its people are always willing to support each other through difficult times. Faith in Action and several community partners are collecting donations to support households in need in the Chelsea and Dexter Areas. Donations to help combat the effects of this pandemic can be made by PayPal at www.faithinaction1.org, by Facebook, or by mailing a check to the address listed on the [Faith in Action website](#).

If You Are in Need: Faith in Action and the supporting community partners have a simple [online application available to support families in distress](#). Our community is committed to supporting each other through this challenging time.

Upcoming Communications Schedule: In order to streamline communications throughout the next two months, DCS District communications will only be sent on Tuesdays and Fridays unless it is of immediate importance. Teachers will generally contact families/students on Mondays. Buildings will send communications as needed.

DCS Playgrounds and Fields: Our playgrounds are not regularly sanitized and should not be used by children during this pandemic. While our fields and facilities are open to the public, social distancing and safe behavior should be utilized. Absolutely no teams should be on our fields while school is not physically in session in the buildings.

Thank you for your continued support as we all work together toward supporting our kids and keeping everyone safe.

Sincerely,

Christopher Timmis, Ed.D.
Superintendent