



Superintendent Letter

January 22, 2020

Dear DCS Families and Staff,

Happy New Year! We're officially half-way through the 2019-2020 school year and starting to plan for 2020-2021. Below are several important pieces of information:

- It's time for **Kindergarten Information and Registration for the Class of 2033!!!** Building tours and information night will be held starting at 6:00 p.m. on February 25th. For information on the registration process, we've prepared a flyer that is included by [clicking this link](#) or opening the attachment.
- **January is School Board Appreciation Month.** We are so fortunate to have a group of caring, committed, and dedicated community members serving on the DCS Board of Education. They spend countless hours working on behalf of all students in Dexter and volunteering their time to serve the community. I want to personally thank Michael Wendorf, Dr. Julie Schumaker, Dick Lundy, Ron Darr, Mara Grestorex, Dr. Daryl Kipke, and Barbara Read for their service to our community and kids.
- That being said, I'm sorry to share that **DCS Board of Education President, Michael Wendorf**, will be stepping down from the DCS Board at the end of this month. Michael has served on the DCS Board for over 15 years. As a Superintendent, I am blessed to have been given the opportunity to work with Michael. His leadership, thoughtfulness, and commitment to all kids at DCS has guided the Board and this district well throughout his tenure. While I'm saddened that Michael will no longer be serving on the DCS Board, I'm happy for him as he moves into the next phase of his life. I am a better Superintendent and leader having been given the opportunity to work with Michael during his service on the Board and as Board President. Next week, I'll send out information on the process the DCS Board of Education will use to fill the vacated Board seat.
- At the last Board of Education meeting, the Board of Education approved a plan to **restructure athletics** at DCS. The highlights of the plan are:
 - Current self-funded sports (Field Hockey, Girls Lacrosse, Boys Lacrosse, Girls Water Polo, Boys Water Polo, and Competitive Cheerleading) will move in the fall from self-funded to school-supported.
 - A flat participation fee will be used instead of our current graduated fee. DHS sports will have a \$250 per sport participation fee. Mill Creek will have a \$150 per sport participation fee. Scholarships will still be available for partial or full fee waivers.
 - Outside fund-raisers and purchases will all come through the athletic department so we can ensure Title IX compliance and more effectively manage the resources provided by our community.
 - The district will reallocate up to an additional \$180,000 from our general fund to support this transition.

A link to the full proposal is available by [clicking on this link](#).

- **The Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD)** submitted an **application** to the Michigan Department of Education requesting that a **Pre-Labor Day Start** be approved for any school district in Washtenaw County that chooses to start early. At this time, Dexter Community Schools is NOT planning to start prior to Labor Day. If the WISD's request is approved and DCS begins to consider a potential Pre-Labor Day start, we will hold community sessions well-in-advance to gain community input and to allow for ample planning time for families (if a change is ever made). As part of the waiver application process, the WISD is hosting a public hearing on Tuesday, February 4th at 5:00 p.m. at the WISD. At this point, we are planning to start the 2020-2021 school year after Labor Day as we've done for many years. While we have not finished negotiating the 2020-2021 school calendar, we anticipate sending the calendar out within the next month or two.
- Every week, we share a collection of activities and twitter posts from around the district in the form of a wakelet. These wakelets provide a wonderful look at the amazing experience Dexter kids have at DCS. Here are the last few wakelets, **In Case You Missed It:**

Week of January 13-19, 2020: <https://wke.lt/w/s/UPeWj8>

Week of January 6-12, 2020: <https://wke.lt/w/s/711eA4>

End of December 2019 and Start of 2020: <https://wke.lt/w/s/PlprWw>

Thank you for your continued support and Go Dreads!

Sincerely,

Christopher Timmis, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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Attachments:

 [KG_y5_info.pdf](#) (880.0 KB)

 [WashCo_Labor_Day_Waiver_Hearing.pdf](#) (4.6 MB)

 [Letter_to_Families_-_Jan_22_2020.pdf](#) (545.7 KB)

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