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## Superintendent Letter - Welcome Back!

August 30, 2019

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Dear Dexter Families,

Welcome back for the 2019-2020 school year! We're ready and excited to see the kids on Tuesday and are looking forward for a wonderful year. Please remember that Tuesday is only a half-day for students. Below are a few key updates as we start the school year:

**Gratitude Challenge:** It is important to everyone at DCS to have a **strong and positive start to the school year**. We want all of our kids to have a tremendous school year and every adult to share in the wonderful opportunities afforded to our kids. As the year begins, our schedules and routines drastically change and we all often feel moments of stress that changes the way we normally navigate our lives. We are so fortunate to be able to raise our children in such a supportive community. To start the school year, I'm inviting all of you to take time every day to reflect on what is good in this world and in your life. Please participate in what we're referring to as the Gratitude Challenge! This challenge will continue from now until the end of September. We are confident you will find it refreshing and worthwhile to participate.

Each day, please take a moment to identify three items you are grateful for (either personal, relational, work or accomplishment related). If you would like to share your gratitude with others, please use this [ThoughtExchange](#) to share. If you don't feel comfortable sharing, feel free to journal your moments of gratitude someone privately. You can also participate in this Gratitude Challenge by texting the 9-digit code 870-607-425 to the phone number 728-55 to get a link to participate in the exchange.

**Start of Year Reminder:** Please remember that bus routes, parent drop-off, and parent pick-up patterns during the first week of school are not as efficient as they will be by the end of the week or during week two. We plan for who we believe will be riding a bus throughout the year and many parents choose to use different plans (drop-off/pick-up) for the first few days. Once we work through what appears to be a daily pattern, we always make adjustments. Please be assured that we will always have the safety of our kids as our highest priority and will make necessary adjustments to routes after we've established what appears to be the pattern in ridership for the year.

**Profile of a DCS Learner:** Earlier this summer, we asked the entire community for input on "What are the most important skills, knowledge, and character traits Dexter Community Schools graduates need to be successful in their futures?" The results are in from the survey! If you'd like to review the results, please visit the [results page](#). Our next steps are to work through this data point along with other focus groups and workgroups to create a Profile of a DCS Learner. This profile will be formally adopted sometime before June of 2020. We will continue to share our progress on the work as it moves forward.

**Newsworthy:** DCS Board President, Michael Wendorf, is competing as part of Team USA at the World Triathlon Championships next month. Please send your well-wishes his way and he represents Dexter and Team USA on an International stage! Here's an article with more details: [Dexter Well Represented at World Triathlon Championships](#)

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



Sincerely,

Christopher Timmis  
Superintendent, Dexter Community Schools

## 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.

Download the Free Blackboard District App



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

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