



DEXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Dear DCS Parents, Students, and Staff,

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for the webinar last Wednesday, May 13th, to discuss how remote learning is going so far and to talk about considerations for next fall. As part of the discussion, we asked a few questions in a “real-time” survey through ThoughtExchange. We’ve themed the feedback in the exchanges and have them available to review. Click on the question to see the results:

- [With our current remote learning for students, what is working well?](#)
- [With our current remote learning for students, what isn't working well that we can improve upon?](#)

We are also attaching the slides from that forum to this message. The slides outline the landscape we are navigating related to school physically opening in the fall.

Themes from 5/13 Forum: One of the common themes at the forum, and in all of our communications with parents, staff, and students, is the high level of uncertainty with the changing landscape that we are navigating. District staff are actively working to plan for the fall while trying to anticipate some of the factors that are still unknown. Students are wondering when things will get back to normal, when they will be able to see friends and loved ones, and if they are on track with their education. Parents are trying to manage work changes and health concerns and remote learning in addition to everyday parenting challenges. We appreciate your patience, understanding, and thoughtful feedback as we continue to chart our course.

Scenarios for Fall: At the forum, we discussed a continuum of six potential scenarios for the fall. We’ve now combined scenarios and are actively planning toward two possibilities for the fall. The first possibility is opening school this fall with social distancing measures, increased safety/health protocols, prepared for potential intermittent shutdowns (if necessary) requiring seamless remote learning, and other adjustments within health department, CDC, and state guidelines. This also includes expanding our current online programming options for students. The second possibility we are planning for is to design three pathways for students: Daily face-to-face instruction, hybrid instruction with some days face-to-face and other days remote on a set schedule, and full online options. **Please know that none of this is carved in stone.** We are working to prepare for options to best educate all of our students and will utilize the next couple of months to make sure the options are clearly planned to support all kids and families.

Online Options for Fall: Our recent parent survey showed that many of our parents may be considering virtual classes for their students for fall, whether remote learning is required or not. For many years, DCS has offered a completely online program for students from Kindergarten



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through 12th grade. The courses are full online courses and are designed to be online instruction. More information is available using this [link](#). If you are interested in learning more about the program, please respond to [a brief survey](#). If you are not interested in learning more, please do not fill out the survey. Filling out this form does not enroll your child in online learning next fall. This information will be used as a gauge for internal planning purposes by the district leadership team. Your participation will help greatly as we plan for next year and develop a variety of options for our families.

Quick Notes:

- On May 6th, the DHS Class of 2020 Seniors picked up caps and gowns as a first step toward a very unusual graduation. Please enjoy this slideshow: <https://spark.adobe.com/video/OdtDM44cN6IKO>
- Attached to this message is a third DCS Wayfinder Newsletter, this one for early elementary students. Our next Wayfinder will focus on the transition to summer.
- As of right now, DCS will continue food service through the month of June. The last pickup will provide 7 days of meals on June 23rd.

This will be the last update until after Memorial Day weekend.

Thank you for your support, stay safe, and Go Dreads!

Christopher Timmis, Ed.D.

Superintendent