



July 27, 2020

Dear Students, Parents, and Community Members,

Detroit Community Schools will start school the day after Labor Day, **Tuesday, September 8, 2020.**

We will begin the opening of the 2020-21 school year using Governor Whitmer's guidelines. These guidelines state clearly what is required, strongly recommended, and recommended for each phase of the Corona virus. DCS will meet these requirements to the best of our ability, in order to do this, changes will have to be implemented.

As of today, the Detroit region is in Phase 4 which means we can have face-to-face instruction with all the required safeguards in place. These safeguards include wearing a mask, social distancing, frequent hand washing, cleaning, and sanitizing classrooms and all other areas many times a day. Please be aware that if this should change, we are prepared to provide virtual (online) learning for all students. We are asking if your child has a fever or is ill to keep them home. This will help stop the spreading of germs.

To ensure that we can accommodate safe distancing, classrooms will have no more than 20 students per class.

Middle school students (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade) will be moved to Hallway 2 of the high school. This will allow for a larger classroom space and make social distancing easier to achieve. Each of the Middle School classes will become a cohort, which means the students will spend the entire day together. The teachers will come to them to teach the specific subjects. By limiting student movement, it will help to mitigate the spread of germs.

Additionally, this will allow fewer students in the elementary buildings. This will also mean less student movement. Elementary students will remain in their classrooms all day with their assigned teachers.

We realize there are many unanswered questions and that parents and students have many concerns. Please be assured that DCS will always put the best interests of your child first as we make decisions regarding the delivery of education. The School Board has made the following decision for the opening of DCS for the 2020-2021 school year:

**Grades K-9** will attend school on campus Monday-Friday all day for a full schedule

**Grades 10-12** will attend school on the following schedule:

**Cohort A (last name beginning A-L)** attends school face-to-face Monday and Tuesday all day; attends by virtual learning on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday

**Cohort B (last name beginning M-Z)** attends school face-to-face Wednesday and Thursday all day; attends by virtual learning on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday

Students will be divided into cohorts according to their last names.

When a student is not assigned to be on campus, they will use zoom to participate in the live classroom instruction with their alternate cohort students. The teacher will teach both cohorts at



the same time even though half of them will be physically present and the other half will be off site at home. Attendance will be taken. All assignments must be submitted to receive credit.

Because of the necessity of social distancing our school cannot accommodate having all the high school students attend at the same time. The reopening plan required by the Governor, has many safety and health requirements and strong recommendations that we must follow. These requirements and recommendations restrict the free movement of students during their school day.

If the Detroit Region should reach Phase 5, all students will return to face-to-face instruction with safety and health requirements put in place.

DCS will create as safe of a learning environment as possible. Teachers, all staff, and grade specific students will wear masks; hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes will be used and readily available. We all must--students, teachers, and staff--work together to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment.

Any parent who is uncomfortable with sending their child back to school may request the opportunity for virtual learning **This request must be made by August 7, 2020**. The parent should call K-8 office (313) 537-3570 x130 or High School (313) 537-3570 X 504 to make their request.

If you choose to have your child use virtual learning, it is a commitment that requires a parent/guardian's signature and the understanding that the student may not switch back to onsite learning until second semester which is January 19, 2021. If the student is not participating in the assignments and refuses to turn in work, a conference with the parent will be called and the student removed from the virtual learning program and placed back in the onsite classroom. DCS will provide Chrome books for the sole use of a student's distance learning education. Paper packets are also available upon parental request by calling the same numbers.

DCS will be enforcing the following **dress code** for **all** students (K-12; whether on site or participating from home)): uniform style slacks (no jeans, no cargo pants) in tan, blue, or black and the appropriate grade level polo shirt is always to be worn. Here is the list of appropriate grade level polo shirts: K-2 Red; 3-6 Grey; 7<sup>th</sup>-Red; 8<sup>th</sup>-Black; 9<sup>th</sup> -Maroon (Burgundy); 10<sup>th</sup>-Red; 11<sup>th</sup>-Grey; 12<sup>th</sup>-Black.

The Code of Conduct will be placed on the website in the next few weeks. We are looking forward to a positive and productive school year.

As we get closer to the beginning of the school year, please be aware that more information will be provided as we receive more directives and clarifications.

Thank you for supporting your students and DCS as we strive to provide educational opportunities.

Sincerely,

*Nancy*

Nancy Berkompas  
Superintendent