



Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District

Administration Center

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DCG Families,

I wanted to provide an update on what the Fall of 2020 will look like.

Our goal is to welcome back all students in person next month. We understand that a portion of students may need to be educated through distance learning due to health and medical needs. One of our safety measures will be requiring both staff and students to wear masks when social distancing guidelines cannot be met. We know that the future impact of COVID-19 is unpredictable and therefore requires us to plan for multiple scenarios. Currently, we continue to prepare details based on the scenarios while we await recommendations from the Governor, Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Iowa Department of Education (IDE).

The new school year will begin on Thursday, August 27th. Changing the start date from Monday, August 24th to Thursday, August 27th allows teachers and staff additional time to make plans and work through potential scenarios this year. Moving the start date back will not extend the school year beyond June 4, 2021. These additional days will help our teachers and staff be more prepared to meet the academic and social-emotional needs of your child. Along with academic and social emotional planning, our staff will also be receiving professional development in the area of effective remote teaching and learning.

On August 3rd, the district will make a final decision on the learning model to begin the year.

If we determine there is a change in our goal to be on-site, we will communicate that decision as soon as possible. The administrative team continues to work on details for the three state required plans and will continue to make updates to these plans. Below is an overview of each of the three plans:

On-site Learning Model

We know the importance of in-person learning. We are committed to ensuring school occurs with reasonable safety modifications. The value of caring friends, classmates, and staff is essential to the mental well being of your child. Keep in mind, on-site learning will look differently than it has in the past. As we consider your child's school day, we are planning for social distancing within all aspects of the school setting. From transportation, hallway traffic flow and student schedules to lunch, athletics and activities, we are committed to the safety of your child and our staff. Guidance from IDPH and IDE will continue to impact our planning.

Hybrid Learning Model

If there is a need to implement the Hybrid Learning Model, the Hybrid Model will be implemented by splitting students into two groups. Each group will be on-site for two days and have remote learning for three days each week. This model will reduce the number of students in the building and allow for more social distancing. Masks will be required for both students and staff in this model.

Off-site Continuous Learning Model

We must plan for the possibility of school closures. Should DCG be required to close any of its school buildings during the school year as a result of COVID-19, we must have a plan for online learning. Last spring, we engaged in voluntary Continuous Learning. This model will not be repeated as it served as a one-time short-term solution. With the summer months to prepare in case of another school closure, we have developed a more robust distance learning plan which will be required for all PK-12 students.

I am excited to share that we had the opportunity to increase our 1:1 device program! Last month the board approved additional Chromebooks for student use. We will be expanding our program to each student in grades 3 - 12 with their own Chromebook. This decision is a significant commitment of the DCG school board. We are currently reviewing plans for iPad devices for students in grades PK - 2.

The school year ahead will require us to exercise social responsibility in our decisions, be flexible in our thinking, offer grace to others and show resilience in the midst of change. One thing this pandemic has taught us is that we are all in this together - one community, one family. We are DCG.

Sincerely,
Scott Grimes, Superintendent

I acknowledge that each of the considered plans come with their own sets of challenges for our students, families and staff. Therefore, if you have extenuating circumstances, I ask that you communicate your individual needs to your building principal so they can work with you to seek a reasonable solution.