

A Word From Our Lead Learner: Dr. Linnea Watson

Hello D51 Online Elementary Families,

Great job to all of our students who successfully completed their DIBELS and NWEA testing this week. If your child was not able to complete their testing, someone will be getting in touch with you soon to schedule a make-up date. We have a few important updates we'd like to share with everyone:

Our team wants to thank you for your patience as we respond to organizing the largest school community and program in D51 history! We are getting a little better each week and we know every day counts for each of our learners. Successes to date include establishing a weekly schedule that provides students with daily live access to their teachers for both social emotional and academic learning and assessing our learners literacy levels this week in order to inform teaching. Additionally, we are pleased to say that more staff will be coming to the D51 Online program, which will lower class sizes and support learning!

That all being said, we still have a long way to go in establishing consistent teaching and learning for each learner and our team wants to be transparent about current challenges and the ways we are responding to them. Please see the ***Building an Online Community: What is Coming and Our Commitment to Improving*** section below, which will be used to communicate areas where our team is focusing to improve your child's learning experience.

As you read, you will notice how the sections of this newsletter are organized to keep you informed, to provide you with strategies you can use as a parent, and to celebrate the great people and success of our online school community. These sections are organized in the following way:

- **Building an Online Community: What is Coming and Our Commitment to Improving**
- **Parent Corner: Tips and Tricks to Support your Online Learner**
- **Important Information, Timelines, and Resources**
- **Getting to Know Your Amazing D51 Online Educators**

Please take time to read through the information below and thank you for supporting your child's learning.

Sincerely,

Dr. Linnea Watson

Building an Online Community:

What is Coming and Our Commitment to Improving

- **FLVS Curriculum Access in mid-September:** We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of our elementary online curriculum, Florida Virtual School (FLVS). Our hope is that we will have access next week. Due to an increase in online education across the country, the vendor is experiencing a delay in delivering the program to our district. Once we have the resource, teachers and parents will receive training. Please know that your child's success will greatly depend on your support with independent work times. Students in grades K-3 will require a more intense level of support. While we are waiting on FLV, your child's teacher will provide a morning/afternoon meeting, along with a math and reading or writing lesson.
- **More Staff = Smaller Classes:** We will have more staff coming on board to decrease class sizes over the course of the next two weeks. Read below to learn more about these transitions.
- **Setting Routines:** We will continue to prioritize setting routines with our daily and weekly student and staff schedules. Small groups will be available for students to get more support with the FLVS curriculum.
- **Communication:** Our goal is to enhance communication with both students and parents. We will strive to have timely school-wide and teacher to student communication routines and expectations.

Parent Corner:

Tips and Tricks to Support your Online Learner

- **Check ParentVue each day:** Please take a couple of minutes each day to check ParentVue for any communication from D51 Online or from your child's teacher. We don't want you to miss any important information and this is our primary way to communicate with families.
- **D51 Online Website:** Did you know that we have a great [website](#) on the district homepage? There are great videos to help support families and students experiencing technology issues, links to resources, and our school calendar.
- **Trouble Accessing Shared Documents or ClassLink Apps:** - If you are experiencing difficulties accessing any of our DOL Google Docs or ClassLink Apps, make sure that your child is using their district username and password. Parent email accounts are not given access.
- **Teacher and Student Schedules and Work Boundaries:** One gift of learning online is the flexibility that it provides students to work in a less time-bound schedule. While our

approach does provide learners with daily live learning, the majority of learning is at the student's pace. Setting up at-home routines and schedules for your child is essential to success. We will continue to talk about optimal at-home learning schedules and spaces.

Teaching online has a different set of considerations than teaching at a school building. Our educators need consistent routines and schedules that allow them to be available to students, provide time for grading and student feedback, and ensure a healthy boundary for their personal and family life. Our educators are expected to be available and engaged professionally from 8-4 each day. They will complete their many duties during that time. While there are exceptions that may lead a teacher to opt to make contacts outside of work hours, we want to draw clear boundaries that allow teachers to step away from work and not email late into the evening. Please expect your teachers to respond to inquiries during the 8-4 window and plan to schedule meetings during that time. Our team's communication and support to families will continue to improve in the weeks to come. Please be patient and honor their schedules and reach out to your school administrator if you are not receiving timely communication and support.

Important Information, Timelines, and Resources

Please review this section for important information and frequently asked questions

- **No School:** Just a reminder that there is ***no school*** Monday, September 7 and Tuesday, September 8 for Elementary and Middle School due to the Labor Day Holiday and a teacher workday. High School is in session on Tuesday, September 8.
- **Staffing Updates:**
 - **Reducing Class Size:** Currently, our DOL teachers are supporting large numbers of students in their AM and PM classes. We are excited to announce that we will be adding some new teachers to our program within the next couple of weeks to help reduce class size. This is great news for our kids, because smaller class size means teachers can build stronger relationships and improve support for each child. We want as little disruption to the learning process as possible, so if your child is selected to join one of our new classes, you will be notified by the current teacher and the new teacher. Please watch ParentVue for more information.
 - **Saying Goodbye to some of our teachers:** Due to the high number of students enrolled in D51 Online, there were not enough teachers to accommodate students. The enrollment procedures allow for parents to continuously register their children for the program. This has provided a challenge for securing teachers. We have approximately 1200 elementary students enrolled and we needed 9 additional teachers to provide services to students to start the school

year. Six D51 Instructional Coaches and 3 long term substitute teachers were placed in online teacher positions. The District will be moving teachers from school buildings that have low enrollment to fill these 9 positions long term. The following teachers will be replaced with a long term teacher:

- Mrs. Cummins
- Mrs. McGowan
- Mrs. Black
- Mrs. Borden
- Mrs. Sanchez
- Mrs. Wertz
- Mrs. McCurry
- Mrs. Spielman/Mrs. Anderson
- Mrs. Bhagatram
- Mrs. Flick

Getting to Know Your Amazing D51 Online Educators

We have an excellent team of committed educators and we want you to know who they are. This section will share about who our team is and what we are up to on behalf of our learners.

