



DALEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

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SUPERINTENDENT

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Dear DCS Parents,

We are quickly approaching the one year mark of when we closed school for Covid-19. I am very happy to report that we do not have any current positive cases or anyone being quarantined for the virus. Over the course of the year, we have had 40 students and 25 staff members who tested positive in our entire school system. We can be grateful for the many people in our system who worked hard to keep our schools and buses clean and mitigate its spread and to our nurses for staying on top of things regarding those who needed to quarantine.

As we near the end of the third nine weeks of the 2020-2021 school year, we are planning to close out strong. These are some of our major goals:

1. **Acclimate our students back to face-to-face learning** – This will be vital to get students into normal routines and set them up for success in the fall.
2. **Finish preparing students to master this grade's content** – This is very important for each of our students to be ready to advance to the next grade level.
3. **Finish preparing students for spring testing** – This is very important as our students and our school will be judged by these measures.
4. **Get school back to normal** – This is very important to provide students with social opportunities they have missed over the past year.

I will address these goals further. **First, we will not have virtual or blended learning next year. We will only have face-to-face learning for the 2021-2022 school year. After much discussion with Dr. Mackey and State Department personnel, schools are deciding to return to face-to-face learning.** Therefore, I am recommending, that all virtual students return to school this last nine weeks to allow them engaging opportunities to finish the year strong in all their subjects. Being at school with teachers daily will help get them ready for the fall when they will have normal school schedules Monday through Friday.

**Second, students need to come back to school so they can get a final push to master the skills of their grade level.** The facts are clear, throughout the year and across the state and country there has been a drastic decline in students' grades and learning. Of course, we made the sacrifice to allow for virtual learning for the safety of our students. Those sacrifices have resulted in having more students who have failing grades. As we are turning a corner now and seeing fewer risks, we need to return to the best method of learning which is traditional. If students are at school during the fourth nine weeks, they will stand a greater chance of finishing strong and bringing up failed grades so they can progress to the next grade. If students have failed a grade level or courses they will be able to come to summer school to have another opportunity to learn

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and pass the course or grade. If they fail this spring and do not come to summer school or pass in the summer they will repeat the grade/class. With all this being said, it is imperative that students work hard this spring.

**Third, all students, virtual and face-to-face are required to be at school during testing. There is no waiver for students to take standardized tests at home.** These test results determine the accountability of our students and our schools so students need to do the following: be at school on time, get rest the night before, eat a good breakfast these mornings, and do their very best on the tests.

**ACT dates** for 11<sup>th</sup> graders are the following: March 8<sup>th</sup> – ACT Boot camp; March 9<sup>th</sup> – ACT for face-to-face and virtual students.

**ACAP dates** for 2<sup>nd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> graders are April 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>

**Fourth, we want our students to be well rounded and have a memorable school experience which means they will have opportunities to participate in sports and other contests, school activities, awards ceremonies, etc.** These are part of what school life is all about. Again, these were sacrificed this year for safety reasons. However, now we are planning for spring and end-of-year activities such as graduation, prom, kindergarten graduation, awards days, athletic banquets, etc. **While we allowed virtual students to participate in band and athletics and seniors will be allowed to walk at graduation in May, these other planned activities for all grades this last nine weeks will be only for face-to-face students.**

We have been very successful in our cleaning and sanitation processes this year and will continue to maintain strict safety measures at school and on buses.

**Again, I am strongly recommending that parents send virtual students back to school this last nine-weeks which begins March 15<sup>th</sup>.** We believe it will set students up for success. Keep in mind that we will only offer face-to-face instruction for the 2021-2022 school year as schools across the state are doing. We are excited to begin this transition because it is what is best for our students. We will focus on the promise of their future.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact your student's school office or my office.

I cannot say enough how much I appreciate all the many efforts of our parents for working so well with us this school year in the middle of a pandemic. Thank you for not letting it stop you. Thank you for your resilience. Through all this, We Will Rise!

In Service Together,



Lisa Stamps