



OFFICE OF SCHOOL & COMMUNITY RELATIONS

School Opening Information

Bulletin #3 – August 5, 2021

As Dinwiddie County Public Schools plans for the start of the 2021-2022 school year, we are committed to keeping our families, staff, students, and community members informed.

Dinwiddie County Public Schools will provide in-person instruction in all grades five days per week beginning with the first day of school on Tuesday, September 7, 2021. A virtual learning option as an alternative for those students who have continued medical needs and/or demonstrated they could thrive academically via the online learning model is being offered to those students that have been accepted in the Dinwiddie Virtual Academy.

We will continue to provide weekly updates to staff relative to school opening each Thursday by email. **This will be updated to include any new information (in red) since the previous Bulletin.**

DIVISION CONTACT INFORMATION

Central Office

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Phone: 804-469-4190

Website: www.dinwiddie.k12.va.us

Transportation Department

Office Hours: 6:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Phone: 804-469-4680

Website: dinwiddie.k12.va.us/departments/transportation/

BUILDING CONTACT INFORMATION

(Summer Hours remain in effect until Friday, August 13.)

Dinwiddie High School

Principal: Robbie Garnes

School Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Phone: 804-469-4280

Website: <https://hs.dinwiddie.k12.va.us/>

Southside Elementary School

Principal: Sheri Culbreath

School Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Phone: 804-469-4480

Website: <https://ses.dinwiddie.k12.va.us/>

Dinwiddie Middle School

Principal: Jeffrey Walters

School Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Phone: 804-469-5430

Website: <https://ms.dinwiddie.k12.va.us/>

Sunnyside Elementary School

Principal: Brenton Byrd

School Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Phone: 804-478-2313

Website: <https://sun.dinwiddie.k12.va.us/>

Dinwiddie Elementary School

Principal: Davis Roberts

School Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Phone: 804-469-4580

Website: <https://des.dinwiddie.k12.va.us/>

Sutherland Elementary School

Principal: Dr. Amanda Clay

School Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Phone: 804-732-4168

Website: <https://sut.dinwiddie.k12.va.us/>

Midway Elementary School

Principal: Randall Johnson

School Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Phone: 804-265-4205

Website: <https://mes.dinwiddie.k12.va.us/>

SCHEDULES

All schools will provide in-person instruction in all grades five days per week on the regular school schedule.

Dinwiddie County Public Schools 2021-2022 School Calendar

https://www.dinwiddie.k12.va.us/app/uploads/2021/05/2021-2022_04-13-21-Board-approved.pdf

Dinwiddie High School Schedule

Start Time: 7:40 a.m. (tardy bell)

End Time: 2:25 p.m.

Dinwiddie Middle School Schedule

Start Time: 7:35 a.m. (tardy bell)

End Time: 2:25 p.m.

All Elementary Schools Schedule

Start Time: 8:30 a.m.

End Time: 3:30 p.m.

Dinwiddie Virtual Academy

For students enrolled in the Dinwiddie Virtual Academy, Mr. Chuck Moss, Director of Innovation & Development will hold an information session for families. More information will be provided to families.

SUPPLIES

School supply lists are posted on each school's website under the Family Resources tab. To help students have a successful start to the year, basic school supplies are being provided to students entering preschool and kindergarten through a partnership between Dinwiddie County Public Schools and our local faith-based community.

HEALTH & SAFETY MEASURES

We will continue to monitor the latest information and guidance being provided from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Virginia Department of Health (VDH), and Virginia Department of Education (VDOE).

***Based on the Governor's 2 p.m. press conference today, several items have been updated. Please note that additional details will be forthcoming next week as school staff continues to make adjustments to the information we have received as we continue to monitor local transmission data.**

Senate Bill 1303 - Requires each school board to offer in-person instruction to each student enrolled in the local school division in a public elementary and secondary school for at least the minimum number of required instructional hours and to each student enrolled in the local school division in a public school-based early childhood care and education program for the entirety of the instructional time provided pursuant to such program. The bill contains certain exceptions to the abovementioned requirement. The bill requires each school board to provide such in-person instruction in a manner in which it adheres, to the maximum extent practicable, to any currently applicable mitigation strategies for early childhood care and education programs and elementary and secondary schools to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 that have been provided by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The bill requires the Department of Education to establish benchmarks for successful virtual learning and guidelines for providing interventions to students who fail to meet such benchmarks and for transitioning such students back to in-person instruction. The bill also requires all teachers and school staff to be offered access to receive an approved COVID-19 vaccination through their relevant local health district. The bill has an expiration date of August 1, 2022.

In anticipation of having students and staff back in our school buildings, DCPS remains committed to implement a variety of health and safety measures. **These include the following mitigation strategies that will be presented to the Dinwiddie School Board for approval at their August 10 meeting:**

Self-Health Checks

All students and staff should continue to self-monitor one's health. Individuals should stay home when sick to help prevent the spread of illness. Any individuals determined to have a fever and/or display symptoms of illness will be sent home immediately by the school nurse.

Handwashing

Students and staff will be regularly reminded about the importance of proper handwashing. Teachers may allow for more breaks to give students the opportunity to wash their hands, either at a classroom sink or in a restroom.

In addition, we will continue to use the hand sanitizer units throughout our buildings. Students and staff will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer regularly.

Masks and PPE

CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. The federal mask mandate for public transportation remains in effect and does apply to school buses. All students and staff will be required to wear masks while on the bus. Normal capacity limits on buses will be in place.

Covid-19 Vaccinations

The Covid-19 vaccine is recommended for any individual over the age of 12. DCPS is not requiring this vaccine for school attendance. We will continue to work with the Crater Department of Health to make the vaccine accessible to our students and staff.

Drinking Fountains

Most of the water fountains have been retrofitted into water filling stations. We recommend that all students bring water bottles to school so that they can refill them at a bottle filling station. Students should not share water bottles with others.

CLEANING & DISINFECTING

Our custodial staff will continue to maintain a high level of cleanliness and disinfecting of public spaces and high-touch surfaces across our buildings and throughout the school day. We will continue to provide access to cleaning materials for our teachers and staff so that they can clean and disinfect spaces, as needed.

MEAL SERVICES

All schools within the division will be participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) as implemented under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. All students in grades PK-12 will be provided free breakfast and lunch daily. Families will not have to complete meal applications this year.

Cafeteria

Based on the current positivity rate and transmission data, we will begin the school year with students not eating in the cafeteria.

Virtual Student Meal Service

Students participating in the Dinwiddie Virtual Academy are eligible for meals. Meals can be picked up each Wednesday that school is in session from 4-6 p.m. at the Dinwiddie Elementary School cafeteria loading dock. Five breakfast meals and five lunch meals will be provided at the pick up.

TECHNOLOGY ACCESS

In the event that all students will need to engage in remote or online learning during the school year, the district will provide chromebooks for students as needed. Students in grades PK-8 will utilize devices at school during the school year. High school students will be issued chromebooks during the first week of school. Dinwiddie Virtual Academy students will be issued chromebooks prior to start of classes.

ATHLETICS & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Athletics and extracurricular activities (including field trips) will be offered for students without restrictions. DCPS will follow the guidelines and recommendations set forth by the Virginia High School League (VHSL).

For questions about athletics, please contact Mr. Bradley Atkins, Director of Student Activities at Dinwiddie High School at batkins@dcpsnet.org or 804-469-4280

TRANSPORTATION

Bus Routes

Bus routes for the 2021-2022 school year will be published on the DCPS website no later than Wednesday, September 1, 2021. For questions about bus routes, please contact 804-469-4680. Website:

<https://www.dinwiddie.k12.va.us/parents/bus-routes/>

Bus Pass Information

Bus passes may be available on a limited basis for extenuating circumstances or childcare situations pending bus capacity. Effective for the 2021-2022 school year, a “Bus Pass Request Form” must be completed and submitted to your child’s school.

Dinwiddie Drive

DCPS will be launching the “*Versatrans My Stop*” app this year for all schools. This app will provide parents and students with live bus GPS information as well as the estimated time of arrival to the student’s specific bus stop. User account information will be distributed with students’ back to school information at each school. The Versatrans My Stop app is available for Android and iPhone devices.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Dr. Weston, Superintendent, continues to hold community conversations to pose questions and/or provide feedback relative to school opening. These will take place as follows:

September 1 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Back2School Bash Audience: All DCPS families
Chat with the Superintendent and School Board members at their booth.

IMMUNIZATION CLINICS

The Dinwiddie Health Department will be holding back to school immunization clinics for any of the required vaccines. These will be held on August 2 and August 16 from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. and from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. No appointment is needed. Parents must bring ID, child’s shot records, and insurance cards if applicable. For more information, contact the Dinwiddie Health Department at 804-469-3771. The newest vaccine requirements include:

- Upcoming seventh graders will be required to have a Tdap vaccine as well as a meningococcal conjugate vaccine prior to entry for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Upcoming twelfth graders will be required to have a meningococcal conjugate vaccine prior to entry for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Upcoming kindergarten students will be required to have two doses of hepatitis A vaccine prior to entry for the 2021-2022.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 10	August School Board Meeting 4:00 p.m. Pamplin Building
August 19	6th Grade Transition Camp (Dinwiddie Middle School) 9 a.m. – 12 noon
August 23-24	New Teacher Orientation
August 25	All Teachers Report to Home School
August 27	iDCPS Conference for all DCPS Dinwiddie High School
August 30	Specialty Day Meetings for staff
August 31	Dinwiddie Middle School & Dinwiddie High School Meet the Teacher 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
August 31	Pathways Learning Center Meet the Teacher 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
September 1	Back2School Bash 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Historic Southside High School
September 2	Elementary Meet the Teacher (All Elementary Schools) 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
September 3	Early Release for All Staff
September 6	Labor Day Holiday
September 7	First Day of School 2021-2022 for grades K-12
September 13	First Day of School for Early Childhood Special Education, Bright Stars, and Head Start