Dear Dayton ISD Families,

I hope you all are doing well this summer. In my last parent letter at the end of May, I promised that I would not bombard you with weekly letters and/or newsletters. I also assured you that I would continue our open communication through periodic letters to ensure you are well informed on any new changes or updates. I appreciate your questions, emails, concerns and suggestions. Our district team has continued to work diligently since my last letter to keep up with all of the rapidly changing guidelines and rules from Commissioner Morath, Governor Abbott, State UIL, and local officials. This letter, just like all of my other parent letters, will cover a variety of topics and I will try to answer all questions that I have gotten over the last several weeks since my last letter.

1. **My child is in summer school (or working on the Enrichment lessons). Where can I access Wi-Fi?** Our technology department, Student Support Services, and Transportation department has partnered this summer to provide access throughout our summer school and enrichment programs dates at various locations. Besides the Richter parking lots, DISD buses will park in several locations at the designated times for drive-up Internet access, from 8 - 11 am or Noon - 3pm, Monday through Thursday. Here is a list and scheduled times:
   a. DISD Mobile Sites- Look for Kajeet SmartBus. The password is smartbus.
      - Kenefick Baptist Church (3536 FM 1008) - Noon-3 pm
      - Calhoun’s Country Store (6650 TX-321) - Noon-3 pm
      - First Baptist Church (74 County Rd 2340@321) - 8-11 am
      - Simmons Bottom - 8-11 am
      - Old River Assembly of God Church (40 CR 401) - 8-11 am
      - Westlake VFD (8704 FM 1409) - Noon-3 pm
      - South Dayton Baptist Church (FM 1409) - 8-11 am
      - Checkers/Chevron (9645 US-90) - Noon-3 pm
      - Calvary Baptist Church (4031 FM 1960) - Noon-3 pm
      - St. Anne’s Catholic Church (CR 622) - 8-11 am
   b. Other Community Sites
      - Community Center (S Cleveland St) - 24/7; password is GoBroncos!
      - The Crossroads (Hwy 90) - 24/7; password is GoBroncos!

2. **What is P-EBT and how can I get more information on it?** The State of Texas received approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide more than $1 billion in pandemic food benefits to families with children that have temporarily lost access to free or reduced-price school meals due to COVID-19. Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) provides eligible families with a one-time payment for each child who previously received free or reduced-price meals. To learn about eligibility and how to apply, please click on the link below.

Dayton ISD continues to serve grab and go meals for all children 18 and younger Monday through Friday from 9:30-12:30 throughout the month of June. Please drive
through the bus entrance of Richter Elementary School. A weekly menu is posted on our home webpage.

3. **How did the FFA Show come out?** Wow! I cannot even begin to tell everyone how much we appreciate all of the support that our students have received. At the 71st Annual Dayton FFA Livestock Show, the community and businesses bid $282K for the sale of the show animals and projects. Dayton FFA officials have already received an additional $30,000 in add-on bids since the livestock sale. It was a very different show and auction this year due to COVID-19, but our AG teachers, DISD administrators, community, students and parents worked hard to make this year’s show a huge success! Once again, showing just how our school and community pull together in these challenging times!

4. **What policies does DISD have in place to teach students about bullying, racism, and character education?** Dayton ISD works diligently to ensure the safety and well-being of all of our students in numerous ways. Our webpage has a statement and link to report any and all bullying. Our elementary and middle schools have been a part of ‘No Place for Hate’ for the last three years. In fact, all of the elementary campuses have received various awards over the years. We have also incorporated character education throughout the district, such as Early Act First Knight (based on the Rotary 4-Way Test), No Excuses University, Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) on all campuses, along with the LEAPS (K-8) and Teen Leadership from the Capturing Kids Hearts Program (9th). Dayton ISD is in compliance with David’s Law, Senate Bill 179 which was passed in 2017. This bill allows both students and parents to report anonymously on our website any bullying allegations for campus administrators to investigate. Secondary Student Groups (Student Council, FCCLA, etc.)-do activities to focus on anti-bullying and respect for one another. Two years ago, our School Board recommended the district to hire two socio-emotional district counselors to support our children at all levels. This year, all students in Kindergarten through 12th grade have new reading resources reflecting a diverse collection of authentic literature from multiple cultural and ethnic perspectives. We are embracing all backgrounds and experiences through the literature we read and discuss in our classrooms. Our district continues to look and hire culturally diverse staff members to work with all of our children. In fact, this August, all staff members will be going through training with the amazing Dr. Ruby Payne, thanks to a grant that our C&I department received. Dr. Payne is an author, speaker, publisher, and career educator who will be speaking and training the staff over various topics including: strategies to refocus students to reopening schools, brain development research, empathy, cultural diversity, and socio-emotional skills and strategies. I personally heard her speak several years ago and again this past January. Dr. Payne is motivating and inspirational. I am grateful for the grant that will allow our staff members to learn from her expertise and research to ensure that we are ready to fully support our students when school reopens.

5. **What will school be like in the fall? What precautions has DISD taken for the reopening of schools?** First, let me assure everyone that our school calendar is NOT changing from the one that was approved by our School Board last March. Additional hand sanitizer stations, deep cleaning processes, and numerous protocols for
classrooms, buses, drop-off/pick-ups procedures, and lunch protocols will be implemented to ensure safety for all. Please be assured that as we continue to get more guidance from the state and federal government, we will continue to change/add ways to keep all stakeholders safe. This morning, Governor Abbott held a press conference and gave the ‘okay’ to return back to school in the fall. TEA’s Commissioner Morath stated, "It will be safe for Texas public school students, teachers, and staff to return to school campuses for in-person instruction this fall. But there will also be flexibility for families with health concerns.” Dayton ISD administrative team will be on a conference call next Tuesday afternoon (June 23) with Commissioner Morath. He will be giving us more guidelines, recommendations, and mandates for the reopening of schools. Our team will then process and make further decisions. I promise to keep you informed, so please stay tuned.

6. **Is it too late to utilize the Enrichment Lessons this summer?** No! We encourage all students to continue learning this summer. I hope your child has had a chance to visit our Summer Academic Enrichment Opportunities link on our homepage and keep some routine of learning going while they are on their break. We continue to have positive feedback from both students and parents on this learning opportunity. I encourage you to check out the link and the lessons.

7. **How can I better support my child (ren) if we are required to go back to remote learning in the future?** As unsure as our times are with COVID-19 and possibly more shutdowns next school year, we are working on ways to 'not skip a beat' when it comes to moving seamlessly from face-to-face into remote as needed. To ensure a smooth and immediate transition, we will concentrate on frontloading technology, Apps, and device training to all of our students at the first several weeks of school. We also realize and value our parent partnerships in remote learning environments. Therefore, we are looking at providing parent training in July/August over the technology platforms, expectations, Google Meets, etc. We will continue to have informational videos and step by step instructions on our website also. Together, we will be fully prepared to transition from face-to-face, blended learning, to totally remote as we need to.

8. **How do I register my child for Pre-k or Kindergarten?** Pre-Registration is over for both PK and KG, but we will schedule New Student Registration right before the new school year. New dates will be put on our website and I will be sending out more information as those dates are confirmed in another parent letter.

9. **Important information for FORMER DHS STUDENTS**- If you have your credits but did not pass all of your End-of-Course (EOC) tests and did not previously qualify for an IGC, TEA has come out with some NEW guidelines. “The student will need to complete the Individual Graduation Committee (IGC) process for each of the remaining EOC assessments not passed (regardless of the number), and the district will need to determine if the former student has met all other graduation requirements under TEC, §28.025(c).” For more information, please contact either Kim Wood kim.wood@daytonisd.net or Geoff McCracken geoff.mccracken@daytonisd.net

Although we just ended the school year a few weeks ago, I know that many of you are already thinking about the next school year. Our summer athletic strength and conditioning programs
are already yielding great results, with some of the highest attendance we have ever seen. This, I believe, is a testament to the desire to return to some sense of normalcy. We all continue to learn flexibility in all aspects of our current lives. I continue to be committed to our on-going communication throughout the summer months. I am forever grateful for an amazing administration team, a caring community, and our partnerships with our parents. It truly ‘takes a village to raise a child’ in today’s challenging times. You along with our DISD staff all are difference makers in our children’s lives. As we continue to get more guidance, I will send out more letters. We will give further details on our return to school in August, the health and safety protocols that will be in place, and more on our remote learning platform. Until then, stay cool and enjoy your summer break.

God Bless,

Dr. Jessica Johnson