

Dear Dayton ISD Families,

I hope you all are doing well this summer. I posted another letter on June 22 but did not send it out via email through Skyward. However, I feel that there was some important information in my last letter for all stakeholders. Therefore, I am using some of the same information along with some NEW info. As promised, I do not want to bombard you with weekly letters and/or newsletters, but things continue to change rapidly. I also assured you that I would continue our open communication through periodic letters to keep everyone well informed on any new updates. I appreciate your questions, emails, concerns and suggestions. Our district team continues to work diligently 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. **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. These services will end on July 9 at the end of our summer learning opportunities.

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. **Is DISD still continuing with the Grab and Go meals?** Dayton ISD continued to serve grab and go meals for all children 18 and younger throughout the month of June. We are giving our much needed Child Nutrition folks a break in the month of July. If you are needing groceries, then many of the churches are giving out sacks of groceries. Please contact them directly for more information. NEW Update: The 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. Parents will need to fill out an application @ yourtexasbenefits.com/Learn/PEBT. The new deadline to apply is now July 31. I hope this information helps out.
 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 social-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 social-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?** Commissioner Morath has just rolled out some guidelines this week for the upcoming school year concerning attendance, expectations for remote learning, grading, and more info on instruction. Please note that we are still waiting on further guidance from the Commissioner on several reopening protocols. First, let me reiterate, our school instructional calendar is NOT changing from the one that was approved by our School Board last March. Dayton ISD plans to start instruction on August 13, 2020. As we get closer to that date, the District will continue to share our plans in greater detail. At that point, we believe we will have a better idea of how the beginning of school will look. For now, we can share the following:

INSTRUCTION- We will offer two different instructional delivery formats for the 2020-2021 school year:

In-person instruction

Remote learning

We are sending out a parent survey and ask that you give us YOUR choice on whether you will be sending your child to school for face-to-face instruction OR will you want to have your child start the school year via remote learning with all of the new TEA guidelines. Your feedback will help us plan for the opening of schools on time in August. Please have those surveys back to the district by **July 15, 2020.**

ATTENDANCE- As per TEA, we will be required to take attendance on a daily basis, even for those who choose remote learning. Teachers are going to be expected to document attendance just like they would during a traditional school setting. Dayton ISD will have to submit an instructional plan to Commissioner Morath for approval. TEA posted this week that "*Measurement frequency is daily. Under an approved learning plan, students earn daily attendance through daily engagement measure(s). The approved engagement methods are listed below:*

- Daily progress as defined in the TEA approved learning plan; or
- Daily progress via teacher-student interactions, as defined in the approved learning plan; or
- Completion/Turn-in of assignments from student to teacher (potentially via email, on-line, or mail).

“A student will be considered absent if the student does not have documented engagement with the Learning Management System of the district and/or daily contact with the teacher, and/or documentation of completion/turn in of daily assignments. A teacher or campus representative will input the student’s daily attendance based on the student’s daily engagement with the LMS or other instructional avenue and/or the daily contact with the teacher, by marking the student remote present or absent on that day.” (TEA quote) In other words, if students are not engaged during the remote learning times then TEA is going to require districts to count students absent. Dayton ISD will be sending out teams of folks (such as administrators, staff members, officers, etc.) to provide a wellness check on our children and look for ways to better support those students.

ASSIGNMENTS- Another TEA guideline, which was communicated to districts, gave guidance on students’ assignments and work, which must be done on a daily basis. Example: If a student is working remotely and is given all of the week’s assignments, and the student works/submits three assignments on Monday and works/submits two assignments on Tuesday, then the student is counted as present on ONLY those two days. TEA clearly stated that the student would NOT be counted present, rather would be counted absent on the remaining 3 days since no assignments were done on those days. According to the Commissioner, each day of the week there must be student engagement along with daily progress monitoring from the teachers. Commissioner Morath has also stated that the 90% attendance rule will be enforced. In addition to compulsory attendance law, districts will be required to enforce the 90% rule, which states that students in grades Pre-K-12 must attend class for 90% of the time to receive credit or a final grade. The 90% rule applies to all absences, including excused absences. (Texas Education Code, Chapter 25)

GRADING- This is also going to be a change from last spring’s remote learning where we counted ‘participation’. Commissioner Morath will be expecting districts to follow their grading policies and procedures just like in a traditional school setting. So, whether you decide to go face-to-face or remote, then the district’s grading policy will be enforced.

6. **What precautions has DISD taken for the reopening of schools?** Additional hand sanitizer stations, deep cleaning processes, and numerous health and wellness protocols for classrooms, buses, drop-off/pick-ups procedures, and lunch protocols will be implemented to ensure safety for all. Schools will be sanitized daily, and we will follow social distancing guidelines whenever possible. However, we do know that according to the state, public access to schools will be significantly restricted, with visitors and deliveries limited to specific areas of schools. Dayton ISD has purchased additional supplies and we were told that TEA will be sending every district an allotment of gloves, masks, and hand sanitizers. 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. So, stay tuned!
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. **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

I know that many of you are already thinking about the next school year. 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. As we make more definitive plans, we will need your support with encouraging students to follow social distancing guidelines and other recommended health practices off-campus as well as at school. I am forever grateful for an amazing administration team, a wonderful School Board, 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, are difference makers in our children's lives. As we continue to get more guidance, I will send out more letters. Until then, stay safe and enjoy your summer break.

God Bless,
Dr. Jessica Johnson