

Dear DISD Families,

I pray this letter finds you well. After a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday, I know everyone is getting ready for our upcoming Christmas break. The Dayton ISD administrative team has been busy planning and getting ready for the transition to bring all of our students back from remote to face-to-face learning after the holiday. With this transition will come some important changes and information. Our focus will continue to be to provide high-quality academic experiences in the safest possible manner. Data shows our remote learning students are more likely to struggle and not make adequate academic progress, and we cannot continue to offer a learning platform that does not permit students to be as successful as possible. I cannot thank you enough for your support, patience and grace as we continue to travel down uncharted pathways together, for not only our district but for our entire world. Here is some important local information along with new guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Texas Education Agency (TEA) and University Interscholastic League (UIL).

**1. What will the transitional phase look like after Christmas break?** There will be two phases of transition.

- First phase will be for ALL Pre K- 8th graders. Beginning January 6, 2021, for Pre-Kindergarten through 8th Grade, Dayton ISD will only offer face-to-face instruction. Those remote students that attend Colbert, Kimmie Brown, Richter, SFA, or WWJH will remain with the remote format until Dec. 18.
- Second phase will be for the DHS students. They will phase out remote, moving to face-to face on January 19, 2021. Due to credits at the high school level (not courses/classes), we will transition these students at the end of the fall semester. Therefore, the last day of remote instruction for the DHS students will be January 15, 2021.

**2. What are my options if I do not want my child to return to face-to-face?** Remote learning will no longer be an option as of the above dates. It is our sincere hope that all of our students will join us back on our campuses and in our classrooms for in-person instruction. For families who do not wish to return to Face-to-Face instruction, according to TEA's Commissioner Morath, parents' options include:

- Withdraw from DISD and seek enrollment in a district that offers remote learning.
- Withdraw from DISD and enroll in a home school program.
- Withdraw from DISD and enroll in an Accredited Private or Charter school.
- Withdraw from DISD and enroll in an online school such as:
  - K-12 online ([www.k12.com](http://www.k12.com)) - a free virtual public school in Texas,
  - TTU K-12 (<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/k12/>)
  - a virtual school requiring tuition
- If you choose to withdraw your child, please contact your Campus Registrar.*

**3. What if my child has a medical condition?** For families who have health concerns with returning to Face-to-Face instruction, then you must go through a process.

- Homebound services may be available- Parents of student(s) that have severe medical condition(s) or concern(s), please contact Maritza Pruitt, DISD's 504 & Dyslexia Coordinator at [maritza.pruitt@daytonisd.net](mailto:maritza.pruitt@daytonisd.net) or (936)367-7370. Please note, any student who goes on Homebound will not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities.
- Special Education concerns- Parents of students receiving Special Education services who also have severe medical condition(s) or concern(s), please contact Trudie Dewey, DISD's Director of Special Education at [trudie.dewey@daytonisd.net](mailto:trudie.dewey@daytonisd.net), or (936)367-7380.

**4. Will there be a calendar change?** YES- to accommodate and transition smoothly, there will be a change for the January 6, 2021 RETURN date. Dayton ISD will have a LATE start on January 6.

- 6th grade- 12th grade* students should arrive on campus by 8:50 a.m. and school will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. Dismissal will be at regular time.
  - WWJH students* will report directly to their HOMEROOM class to receive their class schedules for the second semester.
  - Current Face-to-Face DHS students* will report directly to their regular 1st period class on Jan. 6 at the late start time of 8:50 to the campus and class starting at 9:00 a.m. On the high school's transition date, on Tuesday, January 19, all students should arrive no later than 7:00 am.
  - ALL staff will report to duty* on Jan. 6 and *will NOT* have a late start. This will allow all campuses and departments to be ready to welcome our students back.
- Pre-K through 5th grade students* should arrive on campus by 10:20 and school will begin promptly at 10:30 a.m. Dismissal will be at regular time. Elementary Campuses will send home classroom information and details for all students prior to December 18.
- Another calendar CHANGE-* January 15 will NOT be an early release day. Instead, it will be a full day of instruction for both students and staff.

**5. What is the difference between 'isolation' and 'quarantine'?** The CDC, TEA, and UIL all continue to change and update definitions and protocols. According to the updated CDC guidance with new definitions:

- Isolation- A person is in isolation when he/she is infected with the virus (confirmed, probable, and/or suspect with symptoms).
- Quarantine- A person is 'quarantined' when he/she has had close contact (prolonged exposure, direct physical contact, sneezed or coughed on from someone confirmed with COVID).

**6. Will remote learning ever be brought back in DISD?** There are several things to consider:

- When a student is quarantined* due to close contact with a positive confirmed case, then your child's teacher will provide work just like we did pre-COVID. The protocol for missed assignments (pre-COVID) is in our student handbook. Quarantined students will be given an excused absence but they will also be responsible for the missed assignments just as if they were going to a dentist appointment.
- If the entire district is shut down due to COVID*, then remote learning will kick in for as long as the district is closed.

**7. What COVID protocols will change for Dayton ISD?** Very few DISD protocols will change, but we have tweaked our processes due to new updates from the state and/or federal agencies.

- Protocols that WILL change-*
  - When we offered remote learning and a student deliberately coughed/sneezed on another student and/or a student deliberately refused to wear their masks, then our protocol was to put that child on remote learning. Since we are transitioning off remote learning, then these students may be sent to ISS and/or DAEP. Consistent refusal to comply could result in giving your child the options of withdrawing from the district and/or finding another method of education. Dayton ISD will not tolerate this type of behavior and are working diligently to keep all students and staff safe.
  - Quarantined timeline will change. Last week the CDC adjusted their close contact guidelines. We will be updating our district policy to reflect this

one change. Individuals who are considered to be a close contact may return after 10 days, as long as they continue to monitor themselves through day 14, and do not develop any symptoms during their 14-day timeline.

**8. Will masks still be required after Christmas?** YES, as long as we are under the governor's mask order, then we will continue to have that practice in place for all students and staff. There will be ONE significant change concerning the masks. According to CDC, TEA, and UIL guidelines acceptable masks include non-medical and medical grade disposable facemasks and cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth) along with full-face shields may be used in place of a mask to protect eyes, nose, and mouth. Therefore, half-shields and/or the masks with a vent in them will NOT be permitted.

**9. Will curbside meals still be available next semester?** YES- Dayton ISD will continue to serve any child under the age of 18. This originally started out to serve our remote learners. However, as we quarantine students due to close contact with COVID positive people, DISD has made the decision to continue to serve curbside daily from 10:30-1:00 at the bus entrance of Richter Elementary School. We appreciate our Child Nutrition Staff as they have done an amazing job throughout this entire pandemic to ensure our children are fed.

As we go into the Christmas holidays, please continue to maintain good health habits including monitoring your family's health, wearing masks, maintaining social distancing when possible, and washing hands often. Our students and staff have done a tremendous job at following our health and safety protocols so far this year, and I know that we can finish out the rest of 2020 on a strong note. I continue to be eternally grateful for the amazing group of students, parents, and staff members who have pulled together during this challenging time. It is imperative that our children continue to see the adults in their lives be positive, hopeful, courageous and committed. Have a blessed holiday season and a very Merry Christmas!

With Bronco Pride,  
Dr. Jessica Johnson