

April 30, 2021

Dear Dayton ISD Families,

If you have not looked at the calendar lately, you may not have realized that there are only four weeks left in this school year. Can you believe it is May already? I could not be more proud of our students, parents, and staff for the team effort that has kept everyone safe and allowed us to offer face-to-face instruction all year long. Several updates and information are worthy to note as we go into our last month of school.

1. **STAAR and EOC tests-** Depending on the grade level and subject area, the state assessments will be administered between May 6 - May 13. Be sure that your child attends school each day and arrives on time. Please try to avoid scheduling doctor or dental appointments before or on the days of the tests. If you have any specific questions, then please contact your child's teacher. Here are some wonderful tips for parents and students.
 - a. The night before testing:
 - Make sure that your child gets a good night's sleep - so go to bed early!
 - Be encouraging - let your child know that you think he/she will do well on the test.
 - Plan for the morning ahead – lay out clothes to wear; etc.
 - b. The day of the tests:
 - Get up early to avoid rushing.
 - Have your child eat a good breakfast. Hint – sugary foods can make your child drowsy. (Remember- we are serving breakfast for ALL students FREE!)
 - Have your child dress in something comfortable.
 - If your child wears an assistive device, such as a hearing aid or glasses, be sure that he/she remembers to wear them to school.
 - Be positive and supportive. Acknowledge that test taking can be hard and explain that doing their best is what counts. Send your child off to school feeling confident. "You'll do a great job!"; "Believe in yourself!" and "You've GOT this!" are always great statements to build confidence in our children.
2. **Online Registration for NEXT School Year-** It is that time of year for our returning students to register for next school year. You will have the opportunity to register completely online once again. The window will open on May 17 through May 31. Parents will complete this task by logging in to their Skyward Family Access account. Passwords will be reset a few days before the window opens and you should receive an email with login info. If you don't receive that or need to know your login info, contact your child's school. You will also provide proof of residency during online registration, so save your most recent utility bill so that you are ready when the window opens. Online registration is for ALL KG-12th grade students for the 2021-2022 school year.
3. **Graduation Plans Update-**
 - a. Dayton High School Graduation Plans- Principal Geoff McCracken gave the School Board an update for the upcoming graduation plans. Graduation this year will be on May 29, 2021 at Bronco Stadium starting at 10:00 a.m. Most of the COVID logistics will be the same as last year's graduation. One big difference is students will be able to practice for graduation and that practice date will be on May 27 during the school day. Each graduate will be given 10 guest passes. If you have a senior and have any questions, then please contact their counselor or Mr. McCracken.
 - b. Pre-K Graduation Plan- Principal Jennifer Narvaez is planning an outdoor graduation for the Colbert Pre-K students, so please look for more information that will be coming out soon. COVID protocols will continue to be in place as we welcome families of our youngest students. If you have any questions, then please contact Mrs. Narvaez.

- c. Kindergarten Graduation Plans- Each of the three elementary campuses will be hosting an outdoor graduation ceremony also. Stay tuned for more information from your child's principal.
4. **Attendance** - As we finish our last month of school, it is more important than ever before for our students to attend. Due to the pandemic, we are working diligently to play 'catch up' on the academic front before next school year. Every instructional moment counts. Therefore, we need our children to be present each and every day. Thank you for your continued support in getting our students to school.
5. **Meals** will continue for ALL students through July 1! Our wonderful Child Nutrition department secured a grant that extends both breakfast and lunch for ALL children under the age of 18 years old (whether enrolled or not in Dayton ISD). Students not in summer school may either eat in or pick up via curbside on the bus entrance off Cherry Creek on the Dr. E. R. Richter campus. Hours of operation will be 10:30 am - 12:00 pm Monday-Thursday.
6. **Summer School Plans** - Summer School will be held on three different campuses. Your child's campus will provide you with a summer school packet that includes a transportation form. Please fill out the form and return it with your packet to your child's campus if you need transportation.
 - a. *Elementary Summer School*- This summer it will be held on Dr. E. R. Richter Elementary campus. The first day of Summer School will be June 7 and will run through July 1. Hours will be 8:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays. Both breakfast and lunch will be provided FREE to all students. The Elementary principal for the summer will be Mrs. Ashley Hobbs. If you have any questions, then please contact your child's current principal or counselor.
 - b. *Middle School Summer School* - WWJH summer school hours will be from 8:00 to 2:00 also Monday through Thursday. Both breakfast and lunch will be served at WWJH FREE to the summer school students. WWJH summer school principal will be Mr. Matt Barnett. If you have any questions, then please contact your child's current counselor.
 - c. *DHS Summer School* - Summer school hours will vary due to various program opportunities and will be held at DHS campus. Meals will not be served on the High School campus, but the students are welcomed to eat at Richter Elementary or WWJH campuses. Summer school principal will be Mrs. Shayanne Johnson and Mr. Chris Conner will be in charge of all testing. For further information, please contact your child's counselor. DHS has several summer programs options.
 - Digital Credit Recovery will be held from June 7 to July 1 (Monday-Thursday) and will hold two sessions. The morning session will be from 8:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. and the afternoon session will be 12:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m..
 - End-Of-Course (EOY) Review will be held June 14-17 from 8:00 a.m.-noon.
 - EOC Testing will be June 21-25 from 8:00 a.m. to noon.
7. **Summer Camps** - Dayton ISD will be holding a variety of camps this summer. For specific groups such as Band, Cheerleading, MCJROTC, etc. please contact the sponsors for more information.
 - a. Most of our athletic sports programs will be hosting camps. For more information, please contact Athletic Director, Jeff Nations or visit this link on the Dayton ISD website https://dhs.daytonisd.net/8552_1 from there please select the sport camp you would like for your child to attend and complete the registration information.
 - b. Camp Invention - For more information over this engaging science camp, please contact Alicia Wood at SFA, this year's Camp Invention Director or Mrs. Shanna McCracken at the Hayman Center @ 936-367-7370.
8. **Ideas for the Summer** - Even with this COVID world and limited summer travel opportunities, we have many wonderful opportunities in our own backyard. Please continue encouraging our students to read all summer. Here are some points of interests that you might or might not know exist.
 - a. Read Together as a Family - Check out some great books from the library then set aside time each day to read as a family. Here are some ideas for Family Reading:

- *Book & Dinner*: Pick a book to read as a family. It could be a picture book that can be read in one sitting, or a chapter book that you read over the course of several days. As you read to your child, talk about any food that the characters eat or might eat in the story. Then, for dinner, have those same foods. Your dinner conversation can revolve around the book as well. (Example: Try reading Strega Nona by Tomie dePaola and then cooking a big pot of pasta together for dinner.)
 - *Book & Movie*: Select a book that became a movie. Read the book together and then enjoy an evening watching the movie version of the story. Afterward, discuss how the movie version compared to the book. (Example: Read Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl and then watch *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* from 1971 or the 2005 version titled *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.)
 - *Indoor Reading Picnic*: Lay a blanket on the floor. Bring a basket of books to the picnic and a few snacks such as cheese and crackers. Enjoy reading together.
 - *Book Walks*: Read a book together and then head out for a walk to discuss the story and get your daily exercise. Check out this website for some great book suggestions.
<https://www.readbrightly.com/childrens-books-outside-explore/>
- b. Three Local Museums (and they are all FREE)- The Old School Museum is located at 111 West Houston Street. They are open every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (<https://www.daytonxhistory.com/>). The Sports Hall of Fame Museum is open every third Saturday of the month (10:00-2:00) and is located at the north end of Nottingham Campus at 302 S. Cleveland Street. The Rosenwald Museum is located on the Colbert Campus at 231 S. Colbert Street on the third Saturday of each month (10:00-2:00). Visit all three museums and learn the history of our community.
- c. The Taste of Dayton will be held on June 10, 2021 starting at 4:00 p.m. at the Dayton Community Center. Tickets for adults will be \$5.00 and children \$2.00.
- d. Water fun - The City of Dayton has a city pool and will be opening Memorial Day Weekend at Daniel Park off 1008. (Hours Tuesday-Saturday 11 am - 5 pm Sunday 2 pm - 5 pm.) The splash pad at Parker Park (off Winfree) will also be opening soon.
- e. Dayton Jones Library- They will be having various activities this summer. I encourage you to visit the library located in the Dayton Community Center.
- f. Humble Mercer Botanic Gardens- <https://www.hcp4.net/parks/mercero/>
- g. Anahuac Wildlife Refuge- Check out the website
https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Anahuac/visit/visitor_activities.html

Once again, I am so grateful for everyone's patience, support, and grace this past year. I truly believe that our Bronco families have pulled together during this challenging time to do what is best for our children. I have encouraged our DISD staff to finish strong. My wish and hope is that all of our students do the same through good attendance and continued academic growth.

With Bronco Pride,
Dr. Jessica Johnson