

September 25, 2020

Dear DISD Families,

Wow! What a start to the new school year! Despite two hurricanes and a pandemic, I have to say thank you to everyone for making it possible to attend school whether we are seeing your child face-to-face or remotely. Thank you once again for being flexible as we had early release and no school on Wednesday. My main concern was for the safety of our students, buses, and staff. Everyone has done a great job in these difficult situations! There are some important updates and information, so please take the time to read through today's letter carefully.

1. **The Window to Change from remote to face-to-face** has been UPDATED! To allow a smooth transition, we are moving the window to **Sept. 28 - Oct. 2**. This will give our campuses the opportunity to balance classes and for you to hear from your child's principal. We will be sharing a link to the online form that **ALL remote parents MUST fill out regardless** if you are wanting to change from remote to face-to-face or stay remote. Thank you for filling out and submitting the form for our planning purposes. We appreciate your partnership in this! You can find the form at <https://forms.gle/A3agMNaN2Lu86jbZ8>.
2. **Remote parents**, the second 9 weeks is your opportunity to change from remote to face-to-face. However, at the start of the 3rd 9 weeks (January 19), Dayton ISD will NOT be offering remote classes. Please be prepared to transition either the 2nd 9 weeks grading period (starts October 26) OR after Christmas at the start of the 3rd 9 weeks (January 19). All research shows that students need to be in school in order for ultimate learning to take place. We miss all of our students and cannot wait to see them. HIPPA and FERPA requirements do not allow me to give names/grades/etc. but several parents have asked the question is it safe to bring my child back to face-to-face. What I can tell you is, we have had very, very few positive cases since the start of school.
3. **Child Nutrition News for ALL Parents!** - Thank you to our amazing Child Nutrition staff. They have secured funds to allow ALL of our students (both remote and face-to-face) to eat FREE until the end of December. Thank you all for filling out the Free and Reduced Lunch applications and know that after Christmas, we will go back to our normal operating procedures. But starting October 1, this exciting change begins to ensure all of our students get good and balanced meals. We will continue with our remote meals at the Richter Elementary Bus Entrance for all remote learners.
4. **Homecoming Date** and Information - We will have our Homecoming game on November 6 at Bronco Stadium. The Broncos will be playing against Santa Fe with the band scheduled to perform at 7:00 (Pre-game performance). More details are TBD as we get closer to the date.
5. **Sports are Underway!** - I am so proud of our Football teams, Volleyball teams, Cross-Country teams, and Team Tennis. They all have started their seasons and are practicing social distancing and our safety protocols! Dayton ISD has implemented e-tickets this year for high school athletic events. Admission to all junior high athletic events is free. However, we will have counters at the gates at both high school and jr. high to ensure we are in compliance with the UIL guidelines. As our Broncos play at other districts, their entrance fee and tickets may be

different, so be sure and check before traveling to any high school and/or jr. high 'away' games. For more information about our e-tickets and UIL guidelines for sporting events, click [here](#).

6. **All Remote and Face-to-Face Learners are under the 90% attendance rule** as per TEA. If your child is absent from either school or from their remote classes, an attendance note must be provided to the campus and students must make up those assignments. Dayton ISD is starting to send out CARE Teams of officers and DISD staff members to check on excessive absences. Letters will be sent out and phone calls will be made to check on our students who are not in compliance with the 90% rule. Parents, please continue to help us with getting your child engaged in their academics and attendance. We appreciate YOU! (Don't forget that progress reports went out last week.) Check your child's grades. Contact your child's teacher and ask questions, help them with their homework, or simply check to see they have submitted their assignments. I know being involved on a daily basis is simply part of being a parent of a school-aged child. Together, we can improve and increase our children's academic performance!
7. **Masks** - If a large number of students choose to come back to school, then we are looking to require masks for our younger children. Several reasons for this include that they already wear a mask if they are riding the bus and to allow for better social distancing. Here is a great example of why we are going to require our younger students to wear masks. With more students in a classroom, if a student in a primary grade tests positive and all students are wearing a mask, then no close contact has been made. This would not require all students in the class to quarantine. Therefore, to ensure better safety protocols, we are going to require our younger kiddos to wear masks. The district has also purchased some Plexiglas dividers for the elementary school campuses which should also help in social distancing. Thank you for your help in getting our youngest Broncos to 'mask up'. We are encouraging all current face-to-face learners in the younger grades to start that transition now. However, it will not be mandatory until the start of the second 9 weeks (Oct. 26).
8. **Self-Reporting BEFORE** sending your child to school. We are relying on you to help keep all students and staff safe! Remember, please do NOT send your child to school if:
 - a. They have a fever or other symptoms.
 - b. Have been exposed and had close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID.
 - c. You had your child tested and are awaiting results.

Once again, I cannot thank you enough for your continued support and grace. This certainly has been the most challenging school year to date for me. It is because of our amazing teachers, staff, and administrators along with you that has made these difficult times bearable. We understand the challenges of remote learning and the Curriculum and Instruction (C&I) department have been working with many of you to make tweaks and changes to further assist the remote students. You all continue to inspire me. Thank you for all you are doing to keep everyone safe. If we can do anything, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teachers, principal or me. God Bless each of you.

With Bronco Pride,
Dr. Jessica Johnson