



October 2021

October Principal's Newsletter

In this issue:

We will discuss our successful return to School as we move into the FALL! Also some helpful tips and updates from our school nurse!

- Join the PTO
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Preparing for December Parent /Teacher Conferences



Upcoming Dates:

October 18th-22nd Scholastic Book Fair Week

October 22nd- Friday Night-Scholastic Family Book Fair: 5:30pm to 7:30pm

October 29th- Spirit Day- Wear your favorite Halloween Colors

October 29th- Monster Mash at DRRHS 6:00 to 8:00pm

November 1st- Early Release (12:15pm - No PMPre-K)Teacher Workshop

November 2nd - No school -Teacher Workshop

November 4th -Next, PTO Meeting at DES

DES Dear DES Parents and Guardians,

Happy October!

What a remarkable month September has been and we are here to embrace what the future holds. We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know all our new families over the past several weeks and being with all our returning students and families.

Please join me in giving a huge shout out to our DES staff and PTO; they have been remarkable this first month of school and have been working relentlessly to ensure your student has the best possible experience for this school year. Our teachers at DES are phenomenal and we are truly humbled to work alongside them.

We are also looking forward to expanding our PTO membership and the opportunities that we can provide to our students. There are so many activities and events that would never be possible without the support of our PTO, and most importantly..."YOU" the parents. We would like to encourage you to participate in any way that you can, such as volunteering your time, your suggestions or your talents, just to name a few.

November 11th- No school Veterans Day

November 24th - Early Release (12:15pm- No PMPre-k pm)

November 25-26th - No school - Thanksgiving Recess

Thank you for your continued support!

Mrs. Dessert & Mrs. Fullen



DESE Protocols: The following link will take you to the DESE protocols for isolation, quarantine, and symptomatic individuals
<https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/protocols/protocols.pdf>

Testing Sites:
<https://www.mass.gov/covid-19->

Info from Mrs. Alberto-Nurses Corner:

Illness and Home Health Assessment

In order to minimize the spread of contagious illness, including Covid-19, it is advised that your child remain home if they are experiencing any symptoms of illness. Our collective health relies, in part, on individual attention and responsibility. Note that some symptoms of COVID-19 are the same as the flu, bad cold, or allergies; please do not assume it is another condition. When in doubt, stay home.

If your child will not be attending school for any other reason (medical appointment, injury, family concern etc.), please call and leave a message on the absence line. You can do this by calling your school's main phone number and pressing the “absent line” option to leave a message.

Daily Home Health Assessment for Covid-19 Symptoms

Accidents Happen!

In addition to bathroom accidents, nose bleeds, lunch spills, art class mishaps, and recess falls may require clothing changes at school. It is advised that all children have a spare set of clothing at school. This includes a shirt, pants, underpants, and socks. In the event that your child needs a clothing change, we can quickly assist them into clean, dry clothing and have them return to class with little time away from learning. All clothing can be placed in a ZipLock bag labeled with your child's name. All spare clothing will be stored in a safe location in the classroom and returned at the end of the year.

Clothes needed:

Our clothing supply this year is very limited and we can not always guarantee correct sizes for students if an [accident](#) does occur. If anyone would like to donate gently used children's size (4T - 6x mainly) and new boys and girls underwear, we would appreciate it. We would like to encourage all parents to be sure and send an extra set of clothes in your students backpack in case of accidents.

Water bottles:

We have replaced water fountains with water bottle fillers so please remember to send a water bottle with your child so they have access to water throughout the day. The water fountains are no longer available so it is important to send a water bottle with your child.

Below is the full list of symptoms for which caregivers should monitor their children for each school day. Please do not send your child into school if they are experiencing any of the symptoms below and contact the child's primary care provider for further guidance.

- ☐ Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills
- ☐ Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- ☐ Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- ☐ New loss of taste or smell
- ☐ Muscle aches or body aches
- ☐ Sore throat, *when in combination with other symptoms*
- ☐ Headache, *when in combination with other symptoms*
- ☐ Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea, *when in combination with other symptoms*
- ☐ Fatigue, *when in combination with other symptoms*
- ☐ Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) *when in combination with other symptom*

Return to School Protocol

If your child is out sick with symptoms (see checklist above), your child will need to meet **one** of the following criteria prior to returning to in-person learning:

1. Test negative for COVID-19, have improvement in symptoms, and have been without fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications. Please provide documentation to the school nurse
2. Receive an assessment from a primary care provider and provide documentation of an alternative diagnosis (i.e. influenza or strep throat).
3. If a student presents COVID-19-like symptoms and chooses not to be tested, they may return to school 10 days from the start of symptoms, as long as their symptoms have improved and they have been without fever for at least 24 hours prior to their return to school without the use of fever reducing medication.

Annual Health Screenings

Annual Health screenings will resume for the school year 2021-2022. Health screenings are required annually by MA law and they will begin in November and run throughout the school year. If you would not like your child screened at school, parents and guardians can request in writing that their child does not participate in the screening program. This request must be written each year and be specific to

which screenings you would like to waive. Please send your note to the school nurse.

Kindergarten: Documentation of vision screen on their annual physical

1st grade: Vision, hearing, body mass index (BMI)

2nd grade: Vision, hearing

3rd grade: Vision, hearing

4th grade: Vision, body mass index (BMI)

Halloween- Spirit Day on Friday, October 29th

This year, we will not wear costumes or have a costume parade. We understand that this is a huge disappointment, so instead, we will be having an "ALL SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY." Students and staff can dress in their favorite Halloween Colors on Friday, Oct. 29th. Our teachers will plan theme based activities and to keep the focus on teaching and learning. We want to keep everyone in the loop as to our plans for

Chorus Reminder & Safety Concern:

- Today during the early morning chorus drop off, we experienced an unsafe situation. As a result of the traffic flow, the DMS school buses were blocked from exiting the school campus because cars were passing into the outgoing traffic lane.
- **PLEASE!** Do not cross into the outgoing traffic to pass the line of cars waiting to drop off their child at the old foyer

Parent Drop off reminders:

- Drop off begins at 8:40
- Free Breakfast is available for students
- Gym doors close at 9:00am
- 9:01am is considered late/tardy

Parent Pick up reminders:

- Please do not arrive at the school parking area until 2:50
- QR code will be turned on 2:50

Halloween this year.



October 18-22nd
Scholastic Book Fair & Family Night sponsored by the PTO and Mrs. Raccine
Click below to purchase and visit the PTO homepage.
<https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bookfairs/cptoolkit/homepage.do?method=homepage&url=dig htonelementaryschool>

This year, we are excited to once again offer an in person Scholastic Book Fair.

The book fair will run the week of October 18 to the 22nd. We are happy to hold another in person Family Night. This event will be held in the DES Gym on Oct 22nd hours are from 5:30pm - 7:30pm. A reminder flyer with more details will be sent out via email.

Upcoming December Event:

door. We do not have two lanes entering the school property. We have one lane entering and one lane exiting.

- Chorus begins at 8:15 am The doors will not open until 8:10 am!

What can we do to help the traffic flow in the early morning chorus drop off?

- Please do not arrive before 8:05am to drop off your child.
- The actual drop off will be at the main office.
- Please do not stop directly in front of the doors.
- Please pull up far enough so that at least 2 to 3 cars can drop off at the same time. This might help speed up the traffic jam.
- Please do not cut over and cross into the second lane of traffic!

- Students will not be dismissed until 3:15
- Please continue to move according with the traffic flow

A few more things to Remember:

Dismissing your child before the school days ends for an appointment:

Please submit a letter to the school if for some reason you need to dismiss your child early in the day due to an appointment.

Change in Transportation at the end of the day:

Please remember if you need to change your child's after school plans please call the office prior to 2pm.



DES Parent Teacher

Conferences:

Parent teacher conferences this year will be offered virtually or in person during the week of December ending the 10th. To accommodate conferences, we will have an early release day on December 9th. This early release date is not in the school year calendar. So we would like to get this information out to families in order to prepare and plan for this day. Students will be dismissed at 12:15 pm.

Teachers will be reaching out to parents in the next few weeks in order to schedule these conferences. **Options:** If you choose a virtual conference, those will be held using Google Meet, or via phone calls. Please be watching for emails from your child's teacher next week or so to schedule these conferences. All specialist teachers will also be available to set up meetings.

If you have any questions or concerns **PLEASE** reach out to:

- Your child's teacher
- Principals:
ldessert@drregional.org or afullen@drregional.org
- The main office
kcaldeira@drregional.org or ediamond@drregional.org
- School Nurse:
aalberto@drregional.org

