

April 13, 2020

Dear DCS Parents and Guardians:

Welcome to distance learning! We know that as this new way of teaching and learning begins this week there is a lot of anxiety and apprehension. Our intent of this communication is to help ease fears and reassure our students, staff, parents and families that everything is going to be fine.

First things first. We are in this TOGETHER!! There are no absolutes as we begin this new form of instruction and learning. Our teachers, administrators and staff are committed to working with students and parents. We are partners in this endeavor, not adversaries. If a student or parent has questions or concerns about the expectations, please contact the teacher directly. That being said, let us address some questions you may have:

1. Chromebooks. Due to the overwhelming amount of requests we received to borrow a learning device, some students will not receive their Chromebook until Thursday. If you signed up to borrow a device but have not heard anything, please know that we are working as fast as we can to get to your request and you should hear something shortly. If your student has assignments and you do not yet have your device, please communicate that with the teacher.
2. Here are some of the formats that teachers will be using to communicate with their students:

Google classroom is how many of our teachers are communicating with their students. Basically it's an online classroom; students can check in at their convenience (there is no seat-in-the-seat instruction.) Teachers will post assignments and communicate to the classroom this way. Students can respond back, much like they would in an email, and post assignments using this platform at a time that is convenient to them. The Google Classroom app can be downloaded on your mobile device. The teacher will provide a code to enter his/her classroom.

ZOOM - some teachers may use this to hold a virtual classroom lesson. In a ZOOM meeting, your child will be able to see his/her classmates on their screen and have the opportunity to participate online. Again, if you do not have the internet or data capability, please do not worry if your child is unable to participate.

Google Hangout and Google Meet - like Zoom, Google Hangout and Meet are conferencing platforms that teachers may use to have real time contact and communication with groups of students..

3. ParentVUE. This is the tool that we have used for parents to check their student's grades, attendance, etc. and has been used mostly at the 7-12th grade levels where students have multiple classes and teachers. This is not new, however, if you did not use it in the past, you can reply to this email and we will get you set up to receive your login information. This would be helpful to you in that you can monitor your students' progress. You can download the ParentVUE app or simply log in by clicking on the ParentVUE button found on the top right of our homepage at www.davisonschools.org. Please note that federal privacy laws prohibit the district from sharing ParentVUE login information with anyone other than the student's parent(s).
4. Supplemental Packets: These are just additional learning opportunities for students in grades Pre-K through 8. These are not mandatory or required; they are supplemental. You can pick hard copies up at the food distribution sites on Mondays and Wednesdays (12:30-2 p.m. at Central Elementary, Gates Elementary, Siple Elementary, Hahn Intermediate and Davison High School) or anytime throughout the week in the plastic bin under the canopy at the Cardinal Center (administration offices), 1490 N Oak Road.
5. What if my student is unable to complete the work? Please know that while we strongly encourage students to continue these educational opportunities, if your children are on track to pass, they will do so regardless of whether they are able to participate. If they are not on track, then these opportunities should be utilized in order for them to improve their learning and grades, and get them back on track to move onto the next grade level. We are not taking attendance and a student's grade will not decrease as a result of not completing the work.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher directly or your building principal. Remember, we are here to help.