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DCRSD Update 10.19.2020

Dudley-Charlton Regional School District <notifications@dcrsd.org>
To: Dudley-Charlton Regional School District <notifications@dcrsd.org>

Mon, Oct 19, 2020 at 4:59 PM

All,

I am writing to provide you with an update.

We are very excited to welcome our last grade 5-12 hybrid learning cohort to campuses today. We look to connect and provide the best experience we can under the current constraints that maintain the health, safety and well-being of everyone in the Dudley-Charlton RSD.

Your help is needed as the Dudley-Charlton RSD needs daily substitutes. If you are interested in providing in-person or remote learning substitution, please contact your student's principal as-soon-as-possible. Or contact Ms. Sandra Sullivan, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent at ssullivan@dcrsd.org. We have a limited number of substitutes; therefore, some classes without a substitute may require independent student work.

The Boards of Health from Charlton and Dudley arranged for a Saturday, November 7, 2020 Flu Clinic at Shepherd Hill Regional High School. The state of Massachusetts public health officials made seasonal influenza vaccination an annual requirement for all children attending the Dudley-Charlton RSD in hybrid, remote, full-time remote or full in-person learning. Medical and religious exceptions are provided. All students must receive the seasonal influenza vaccine annually by December 31. More details will be provided through school communications.

Last Wednesday, I provided the Dudley-Charlton RSD School Committee the following information. Our schools and principals receive daily family requests to enroll their student in the full-time remote learning model or to re-enroll in the hybrid learning model. It is extremely important to share what will happen as it is incredibly difficult to organize and navigate daily requests. Once a request is received for movement from hybrid to full-time remote or from full-time remote to hybrid, the principal will begin the process of reassignment. With either request, the student will be assigned to a different general education teacher. Again, once a choice request for change is made to enter full-time remote learning or to enter our hybrid learning model, a student will be reassigned to a different general education teacher. Additionally, this could take some time to complete as we are using every resource we have to provide these choices and complete reassignments. This could take from 2 weeks to 4 weeks to accomplish. Students must continue in their current learning model until the reassignment is confirmed by the principal or office staff. Our goal will always be as-soon-as-possible, but shifts in student and teacher assignments are not simple changes based on daily requests to move from one model to another. We appreciate patience and our principals are working tirelessly to accommodate these requests.

We know our current plan does not meet all household schedules. In addition, while we are often compared to other districts, no district has the right plan that meets every individual family requirement. As educators, we continuously reach out to collaborate with our peers to understand their district approach and breaking points. No two district models are alike and while we are leveraging every resource, the Dudley-Charlton RSD focused on establishing daily student-teacher connections and a comprehensive schedule of studies to include unified arts.

In the event that the Dudley-Charlton RSD is able to shift to full in-person learning or if we are required to shift to full-time remote learning as a result of community spread our current hybrid learning plan provides a smooth transition to either learning model. With that said, we have not finalized a date for an intermediate shift to full-day cohort hybrid in-person learning as we have a need for more resources, specifically educators as our current half-day in-person educators conduct afternoon remote sessions. To provide full-day cohort hybrid in-person learning, we would have to assign hybrid remote students to a new educator. In addition, remote learning unified arts schedules would have to be adjusted to accommodate full-day cohort hybrid in-person learning. Lastly, remote hybrid learners would be expected to complete more independent remote learning than is currently in our hybrid schedule as a result of changes to teacher assignment. The administration team continues to review and plan for this shift and will provide greater detail in the future.

Again, we know our current plan does not work for every family and our educators are working hard to maximize their resources and provide an accessible, comprehensive learning experience for all of our students. This is the most difficult teaching and learning for everyone, no one has it easy to this point and in the foreseeable future.

As always, thank you for your patience and understanding.

Respectfully,

10/20/2020

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Steven M. Lamarche

Superintendent of Schools