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## DCRSD Update 09.14.2020

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

Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 5:25 PM

All,

The final day and details to start the school year are upon us. We know that anxiety is at an all-time high and the work of our educators to prepare for this school year opening for your student(s) is with that understanding and a sincere appreciation for your anticipation of getting to "go". You will receive detailed communications from your school principals and assigned teachers will provide greater detail. Please reach out to either if you have questions.

We know this is not the best of circumstances for opening up the school year, but you will find that we believe in our students, the families of Dudley-Charlton and our educators. We see this as starting point and look to build momentum for when we return to full in-person learning. We appreciate your continued patience and communications. We wish to add collaboration to our list of appreciations as we know the success of your student will be through our work together as a learning community.

I apologize for the length of this section of the communication, but it is vitally important for us to share our expectations and develop your understanding with all forms of remote learning through audio and video conferencing.

The Dudley-Charlton RSD will primarily use Google Meets and the Google Suite to provide remote learning. We may also use the Zoom platform. In order to provide a safe and supportive remote learning experience, everyone must agree to the following understanding.

In accordance with state and federal laws, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) students, parents, caregivers and family members must refrain from recording any and all remote lessons. Exceptions may be made on an individual basis due to special circumstances and only with the consent of everyone involved in the lesson.

In addition, while parents/caregivers or family members are permitted to observe online remote learning in a non-disruptive manner, to the extent that remote learning opportunities provide access to confidential student information, all participants in the online remote learning opportunity must refrain from disseminating any confidential student information about other student participants with any and all third parties.

We recognize that online remote learning will take place in the homes of students and some educators, therefore the rights to privacy extends to those online remote learning video conference times in homes.

We know, periodically, that the quality of audio and video conferencing may interfere with an online remote learning experience, therefore, all we ask is that the parent/caregiver or student communicate such to their assigned teacher.

All of our guidance documents use the terms *synchronous* and *asynchronous* remote learning experiences. We need to help define these two experiences. Synchronous lessons are delivered through an online tool, such as Google Meet, that allow for students to ask questions and participate in both whole class and small group discussions in real time. Asynchronous lessons can occur either online, offline, or a combination of the two. Not all students need to be in the same virtual space during asynchronous instruction. The Dudley-Charlton RSD is committed to a growth mindset and will continue to deliver high quality synchronous and asynchronous instruction.

Lastly, we want our students to develop digital routines to enhance the remote learning experience. This entails being on time for synchronous content, being dressed as if going to school, sitting up, and having a flat surface to either write and/or support a device. Having a dedicated workspace is important to student success. Students and families should ensure that the device being used is charged and ready for use prior to a synchronous remote learning experience. Students should also build in at least one five to ten-minute movement break during each hour of the day. Students should follow the established norms with regard to active listening, active participation, and video conferencing etiquette like muting their device when not speaking. School rules apply during remote learning experiences. Cyberbullying and harassment will not be tolerated.

We also have a number of resource links to improve the digital experience of our students.

[Digital Citizenship Resources for Family Engagement](#)

[Parenting, Media and Everything In Between](#)

[Digital Citizenship Games for Kids](#)

We can't thank you enough for preparing your student(s) for this school year. We are all very anxious to get underway.

Respectfully,

Steven M. Lamarche

Superintendent of Schools