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DCRSD Update 09.18.2020

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

Fri, Sep 18, 2020 at 12:13 PM

All,

This week was certainly an exciting week for education in the Dudley-Charlton RSD. While not perfect, seeing students and staff this week was motivating and provided a glimpse of things to come. We hope the momentum of our first few days will carry us to our goals of getting to more in-person learning.

What cannot be understated is the herculean efforts of our administrators, educators and you to get to this starting point. We believe for the overwhelming majority that only minor changes or adjustments may be needed to accommodate the various requests and changes brought forward by our families this week. We appreciate your patience and understanding with some of the adjustments we need to make.

I also have a number of other items to share with you that are important with our school year 2020-2021 opening. As always, if you have questions, do not hesitate to reach out directly to your student's classroom teacher, other school support staff and your student's building principal. We have received lots of emails and will make every effort to get a response to you as soon as possible. For urgent, emergency type questions, please contact the school via telephone.

We received an overwhelming request for technology devices for at home use. Unfortunately, we do not have the finances or enough devices to be a 1 student 1 device district and some of our devices are several years old. We will continue to accommodate requests and if needed will place you on a waiting list. This summer we placed orders for more devices but the delay on receiving our orders, like many districts across the commonwealth, has been growing. Even with our purchases we will not reach 1 student 1 device expectations, so we are asking for your understanding and support to only request a device if your student has no other option.

We hope to have bus routes updated and posted next week. Like every project through the required guidelines and with a district our size, this has been a challenge to prepare. We know some adjustments, like bus numbers, will be made and we expect some minor bumps in the road, but every effort is being put into place to ensure your student is transported safely to and from school once we enter hybrid learning. For bus transportation questions, please contact Ms. Cheryl Kozub at 508.943.6888 x146.

With our efforts to maintain all of our mitigating strategies with a clean environment in our schools, we are asking if you need to go to the school that you call ahead and schedule an appointment. We will hold most of our meetings outside under a canopy, especially impromptu or unscheduled visits to the school. This will be weather permitting and we respectfully ask that you contact the school via telephone first. For staff/parent meetings, including special education team meetings, we will continue to utilize video conferencing. This is our starting point, but always feel free to reach out to your student's classroom teachers, support staff or school principal if you have questions.

As we prepare to increase the school use of our fields, it is critical that the community understand that there are limitations on the number of people permitted to be on the field. We continue to support the community use of Dudley-Charlton RSD properties for walking and exercise, but we ask that you coordinate as to not interfere with school use. We know the community has been great in this regard, but we want to share why we are asking for you to adjust your time of use.

We are very lucky and appreciate that the Dudley-Charlton RSD has been provided the go-ahead to universally provide free meals for all students in our district. We are offering free daily meals until December 31, 2020 or until funding from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) runs out. Any student can receive a free meal ***Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays***. At this time, we are not providing lunch on Wednesdays. Families can access a free meal at these locations:

Now at Shepherd Hill RHS 12:30-2:00PM

Starting October 1, 2020 – Dudley Elementary, Mason Road, Charlton Elementary and the Heritage 12:30 – 2:00PM

Starting October 16, 2020 – Charlton Middle and Dudley Middle 12:30 – 2:00PM

Once again, this week brought a new excitement we have not experienced since last March in the Dudley-Charlton RSD. We look forward to every opportunity in front of us and ask that all families and students practice all forms of mitigating

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strategies so the we can reach our goal of full in-person learning.

Respectfully,

Steven M. Lamarche

Superintendent of Schools