

March 24, 2020

Dear Deerfield Families and Students,

It has been a long few weeks for everyone, and we really need some nice spring weather to come soon. Thank you to the many parents who have reached out with offers to help the school and to help friends and neighbors during this uncertain time. I want to continue to reassure you that there are many agencies working in the background to help families or individuals with any needs they may have. The Deerfield Community Center is ready to provide assistance in many ways. I also want to share a reminder announcement that our [FREE lunch program](#) begins the week of March 30th. This meal is free for all students 18 and under and will be available for pick up Monday-Friday at DES.

On Friday, March 13, when the first school closure was announced, the district brought together an instructional planning team that has been working daily on creating continued learning plans for every grade level. As a team, we have wrestled with the very difficult decision of how to continue the school year in terms of academics and learning for our students. Online instruction, while convenient for some, cannot replace the relational piece of learning face-to-face with the teacher and classmates. We also recognize that whatever we put together has to be realistic and practical for students and families. After much discussion and deliberation, we have decided on the following learning goals for our students. Please know that this could change as new information is released from DPI. **Our continued learning plan for students will begin on Wednesday, April 1st.**

Continued Learning Goals

- 4K-Gr. 8 will provide supplemental and enrichment online instruction. The focus will be on maintaining skills and keeping students engaged in learning. This work will not be graded, nor included on report cards. Work will be monitored and modified by special education staff to ensure support and equity of learning to the extent possible.
- Gr. 9-12 will hold Quarter 4 classes as scheduled via online instruction. The focus will be on teaching essential learning outcomes. This work will be graded in Skyward as usual, but students will receive a final grade of pass/fail since we cannot ensure equity of resources for all students. The grade point average will be put on hold and not impacted by the pass/fail grades. It will allow students to continue earning needed credits towards graduation requirements. Work will be monitored and modified by special education staff to ensure support and equity of learning to the extent possible.

You can view the [Continued Learning Plan Guide](#) here.

Staff have been busy planning and will be sending more specific information via email to families and students by March 30th. We believe that we have put a plan together that keeps the focus on continued learning for each child without overwhelming the student or, you, the parents. Communication will be very important between school and home during this school closure; we are committed to doing our part.

Please review the [Continued Learning Plan Guide](#) and watch for emails from your child's teacher(s). This letter and the Continued Learning Plan guide will be mailed to every family as well. Feel free to email your building principal with questions or concerns. All of us working together make Deerfield a great place for kids to learn and grow!

Sincerely,

Michelle R. Jensen

District Administrator