

Superintendent Report

Back to School Updates

August 10, 2021



The information in this presentation contains
the most recent information
available on

Summer Summit and New Teacher Orientation

- Summer Summit - 837 DCSD staff members engaged in 2,787 learning experiences over the course of the three-day event.
- New Teacher Event - over 480 attendees including new teachers as well as leaders and professional learning specialists.
- Both events provided a virtual option for staff to participate in the sessions.

First Day Welcome Visits

Teams of DCSD Board Members and Staff visited DCSD schools on the first day of school.

- Each school received a visit with a welcome back card and candy bag.
- Photos were posted on social media and featured in the slide show shown prior to the start of this BOE meeting.
- Schools who have not returned yet will receive visits on their first day.

Student Transitional Supports

The beginning of the school year is a time to connect and build students into learning, activities, and athletics, while creating pride in their school experience. This connection is more critical than ever, and we have a commitment to build belonging and a systemic approach to monitor and support each and every student. For example:

- Kindergarten students are taking part in the Balanced Beginnings program. This allows our young students to slowly transition into the classroom, while meeting other students and their teacher.
- Some middle and high schools dedicated days for new students to visit the school, find their classroom and meet new friends.

Mental Wellness Supports for Students and Staff

- All of our schools have highly qualified mental health staff - school psychologists, school social workers, counselors, nurses, and others.
- As part of yearly mandatory trainings, all district staff are trained in what to look for with students who are experiencing significant emotional distress and how to access building level support for those students.
- A comprehensive social emotional learning implementation guide for schools K-12 has been constructed for the 2021-2022 school year. The DCSD HPSEL team will be available to schools to provide support in each focus area as detailed in the implementation guide.

Castle View HS F-Pod Ribbon Cutting

- The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the long-awaited Castle View F-Pod took place on Thursday, August 5.
- Over 160 people RSVP'd and the event featured tours of the facility, food and networking.
- Construction of the F-Pod was made possible thanks to the community who voted for the 2018 Bond.
- Career and Technical Education programs, Advanced Placement programs, ConCurrent Enrollment Programs
- Student presentations about the excitement and opportunities at CVHS

Additional Summer Capital Improvements

- District-Wide - Security improvements
- 23 Schools - Capital Improvement Projects including mechanical and electrical components and systems, fire alarm systems, roof replacements, and other needs
- Mountain Vista HS, Rock Canyon HS, Flagstone ES, Timber Trail ES - Roof Replacements
- 9 High Schools - Career and Technical Education Upgrades
- MVHS & LHS Tracks - Resurfacing
- LHS Tennis Courts - Replace with concrete
- CVHS Tennis Courts - Replace with concrete and add two courts
- Stone Canyon Outdoor EdVentures - Kitchen and seating expansion and other needs
- Larkspur ES - Drainage improvements

Universal Free Meals Continue for 2021-2022

- For all schools where DCSD Nutrition Services operates, the USDA has extended Meals at no cost through June 30, 2022.
 - One breakfast (where offered) and one lunch per day per student will continue to be provided at no cost to all students.
 - Students are required to take a fruit or vegetable to make a reimbursable/no cost meal at breakfast and lunch.
 - A La Carte food items are available for purchase. Meals will be served in the school cafeterias to students.
- Families are encouraged to complete the Meal Benefits application online at Meal Benefits www.myschoolapps.com.
 - Those approved for this program are eligible for the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program benefits, and by waiving school fees and transportation fees.

Hiring/Staffing

We still need some positions:

- CDL and Non-CDL bus drivers
 - We have 7 in training and we still remain 45 short of our budget allocation
- TEA's and EA IV's
- Building Engineers Custodial
- Nurses
- Specialty Positions
- Please go to our [DCSD Website](#) to find positions and apply

Transportation

- Bus routes have been generally restored to transport eligible students who attend their home school and live approximately one mile from elementary schools and two miles from middle and high schools.
 - Even though the number of bus drivers has not increased since last year when routes were two miles from elementary schools and three miles from middle and high schools, routes closer to schools have been made possible by consolidating routes. Unfortunately, this results in longer routes with fewer bus stops on the routes which are in many cases different from the stops last year.
- Eligible parents can see bus routes and stops when they sign up in Express Check-In, or they can go to the Transportation page on the web site.

Transportation

- While routes are established based on historic ridership, Transportation is monitoring the number of parents who sign up for busing and purchase a SmartTag and will continue to adjust bus routes through the first month of school based on actual ridership to maximize efficiency.
- Transportation is also maximizing the use of third party contracted busing to assist with the busing of students with special needs, along with using non-CDL bus drivers for routes with few riders, to free up as many CDL bus drivers as possible for routes.
- In order to hire more staff, hiring bonuses for drivers and retention bonuses for TEAs has been included in this year's budget. Transportation and Communications also continue to aggressively advertise and market the need for CDL and non-CDL drivers and Transportation Assistants.

Layered COVID Mitigation Strategies

- Tri County Health Department has walked side by side and supports our plan and will work with our data with our next steps
- We have and will continue to work with Principals, teachers and families to support individuals
- We will continue to have spots at EDCSD to support families with Remote Learning when needed
- We have had a number of students and staff at school this summer and our data has been good and we will continue to monitor and adjust as needed.
- We will use metrics of positive cases at schools to set parameters for additional mitigation measures and potential move to remote.
- We have the ability to adjust as we continue to monitor our data

Layered COVID Mitigation Strategies continued

- Engagement Information Forum
- We have had BASE, Summer School, ESY in person this summer
- DCSD is “recommending that all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, wear a mask in indoor public places, including teachers, staff, students, and visitors to schools,” (in alignment with TCHD, CDPHE and CDC recommendations).
- Student facing staff that are not vaccinated are required to wear masks
- Encouraging frequent hand washing and providing access to hand sanitation stations.
- Continuing increased ventilation in buildings and frequent disinfection.
- Implementing physical distancing where possible and encouraging outdoor eating, learning and activities.

QUESTIONS?