



DIGHTON-REHOBOTH
Regional School District
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T.E.A.M
(Together Everyone Achieves More)

December 23, 2020

Dear Families,

The COVID Pandemic has made 2020 an extremely difficult year. Together, we have worked tirelessly to provide education and support to our students and families in an attempt to build connections and normalcy in a time of great uncertainty. Our educators and staff have dedicated countless hours to develop instructional opportunities despite the many barriers they face in remote and hybrid learning models. They think outside the box, troubleshoot technical issues, and put on a happy face behind masks to make learning positive for our students. The work of our staff is admirable.

We are also forever grateful to our families for supporting our students during home learning. We appreciate the flexibility to shift learning models when necessary, change plans with little notice, and work through technical issues that impact remote learning. It has been a collaborative effort; the work of our district community exemplifies the phrase "we are all in this together". Having our students in school has been a bright spot in a dark year.

The weeks leading up to holiday break have been increasingly difficult due to the community spread of COVID-19. We have had to close all school buildings because of the impact of the virus. Through data analysis and collaboration between our nursing staff and local Boards of Health, we have identified an increase in COVID related absences due to illness and mandated quarantine periods.

In an effort to provide consistency for students, staff, and families to begin 2021, **we have decided to implement a full remote learning model for the week of January 4th**. Beginning Monday, January 4th, and ending Friday, January 8th, all cohorts will move to remote learning. No in-person programs will run from 1/4 - 1/8. **We will return to in-person learning on January 11th**. Cohort A will again report on Mondays and Tuesdays; Cohort B will report on Thursdays and Fridays. Understanding that we were unable to implement the cohort change on 12/21 and 12/22, we will be working to identify another opportunity to balance live meeting days for each cohort in the near future.

We hope a full week of remote learning upon return from holiday break will provide a period of time for our local health agents to catch up on contact tracing and testing- critical interventions that have impacted the daily operation of our school buildings.

Looking ahead to 2021, we are hopeful that the distribution of a new vaccine against the virus will have a positive impact on our schools and communities. We are hopeful that, soon, we will begin to see a

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slow in the spread of the virus and can again provide uninterrupted learning for our students. Finally, despite our stagger to finish 2020, we hope to again sprint in 2021.

On behalf of the DR District community, I wish you a safe, relaxing, and happy holiday, and a new year filled with hope, health, and prosperity.

Sincerely,
Dr. Anthony Azar

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