Welcome Back to School!

Hello to all McAuliffe Manual families,
I hope this finds all well and eager to get the year started! As we all know this is not a typical year. We at MM are trying make the year as normal as possible, for all students. We will continue to make sure that we are providing a high-quality curriculum that is engaging, interactive and challenging for our students. This year we are continuing to partner with our sister school McAuliffe International, for all curriculum, teacher professional development, master schedules and all curricular resources. Both staffs are being trained on a new interactive platform, Desmos, which will be used in conjunction with Zoom to deliver all lessons. We at MM will continue with the IB (International Baccalaureate) work we started this last year around students understanding the IB Learner Profiles. These traits are: risk takers, open-minded, inquirer, communicator, principled, balanced, thinkers, knowledgeable, caring and reflective. All of these qualities are what we know ALL students need to be successful in middle school and in life.

I want to remind all families that we will have a virtual Desmos demonstration of the platform, this Thursday, August 20 at 5 PM. Ms. Shumaker, 8th grade science Senior Team Lead and teacher, will be walking through a lesson demonstrating how to access the platform and how to navigate between Zoom and Desmos on a split screen. We welcome your questions in the chat, as this is taking place. Here is how to join us:

Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/92076820843?pwd=Mkp1aVBWNDV3S0ViN3QwSXlxYyt2dz09

Meeting ID: 920 7682 0843
Passcode: gS7Utw

Thank you,

Suzanne Morris-Sherer
Principal

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Here are some District resources to better help you navigate the next few weeks.

Family Guide for the New School Year
As families and students get ready for the start of remote learning, we encourage you to read through our K-12 Family Guide together to help you know what to expect and how to prepare. Some of the key topics covered in the guide include:

- Health and safety standards and procedures, as we work to gradually and safely return to in-person learning. For most students, remote learning will run until at least Oct. 16. Some in-person learning could begin as early as Sept. 8 for small groups, such as early childhood education (ECE) or other high-priority students.
- Colorado’s COVID response levels and DPS learning scenarios (remote, in-person, or a mix/hybrid model).
- Social-emotional and mental health supports.
Technology Resources for Remote Learning

All students in kindergarten through 12th grade need a computer and internet access for remote learning. We encourage families to test their computers and internet access prior to the start of school (Aug. 24) and to reach out to their school if they need support. Schools may have internet hotspots available for families that need them. Affordable internet options are also available through Internet Essentials and Starry Internet.

Moving forward, DPS will be using two primary online programs, which are known as “learning management systems (LMS).” They are Seesaw for kindergarten through fifth grade, and Schoology for grades 6-12. (Charter families should check with their schools on which LMS they will use.) We want to be sure that families have access to these systems that students and teachers will use throughout the school year for coursework, assignments, feedback and more.

- Schoology (grades 6-12): Parents/guardians who already have access to the Parent Portal will automatically have a Schoology account connected to their students. Parents/guardians who do not have a Parent Portal account should visit parentaccountcreation.dpsk12.org to create one.

Timeline for Families to Make Final Enrollment Decisions

Families will have until mid-September to make a final enrollment decision for their students, whether they prefer a virtual program or as much in-person learning as health conditions permit. (As we previously announced, all schools will start with remote learning through Oct. 16.)

In the next few weeks, DPS will share the information on COVID risks and the health guidelines we’ll be using to determine when we’ll be able to shift safely from remote to some or full in-person learning, as well as a more specific deadline for families to make their final enrollment decision for the first semester. As a reminder, families can select their preferred option on the Parent Portal or by contacting their school. (Families whose students attend a charter school should check with their school for enrollment procedures and deadlines.)

Student Meals

DPS will continue to serve meals for curbside pickup at locations throughout Denver. Breakfast and lunch will be available for curbside pickup from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Unfortunately, weekend meals will no longer be available as of Aug. 24.

- Families can pick up both breakfast and lunch meals at the same time at any school that is close to their home.

- Students do not need to be present to pick up meals – you just need to provide each student’s name, school and student ID number.

- Additional meals for students who are not eligible for free- and reduced-price meals, non-DPS students, and adults can be purchased. Families can apply for student meal benefits here. Please see the list of current meal locations, as well as meal locations offering service starting Aug. 24.
Join Telephone Family Forum to Discuss School Year Ahead

Superintendent Susana Cordova, along with other DPS leaders, will be hosting a series of live telephone Family Forums next week. She will discuss the new school year and the extra supports being provided to our families and the community. All families are invited to join in the calls based on their students' grade level:

- ECE-5th grade families: Tuesday, Aug. 18, from 6-7 p.m.
- 6th-12th grade families: Wednesday, Aug. 19, from 6-7 p.m.

At the start of the forum, families will receive a call from DPS on the telephone number you provided to DPS. From there, participants will be prompted on how to automatically join the call. We look forward to connecting!

Return-To-School Information Session for ELA Families

Families who have a student learning English in one of the English Language Acquisition programs in DPS are invited to join a virtual meeting to discuss the upcoming school year. These meetings will be held from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 20; and 8:30-9:30 a.m. Friday, Aug. 21.

Will there be Spanish instruction and English Language Development classes this fall? What will online instruction be like and how will it be different from the spring? Families will have the opportunity to ask DPS leaders questions like these and more to help prepare for the start of school. Interpretation is available by request, provided at no cost to participants. Register here.

Back-to-School Family and Student Surveys Launch Next Week

The Back-to-School Survey, designed for all parents/guardians of DPS district-managed schools and students in grades 3-12, will be open Aug. 24-Sept. 4. This will be a way to express your needs and to see what supports the district will be providing for all families. Please take the time to complete the survey.