

Des Moines Municipal Schools
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April 3, 2020

Good morning Des Moines School Family,

Thank you for your patience as we move into a virtual learning environment next Monday. School days will be shorter in length to factor in a very different learning model. Elementary teachers will email parents with their daily schedule. Grades 7-12 will begin at 9:00 each morning; Monday and Wednesday will be 1st, 3rd and 5th period, with Tuesday and Thursday 2nd, 4th and 6th. Friday will be various services and classes. Secondary classes will be at 9, 10 and 11; with additional access to teachers from 1:00 to 2:00 in a virtual office hour.

Our teachers have been in overdrive the last two weeks building our skills for virtual learning. Teachers have contacted students in preparation for next week. They have prioritized the most important lessons to be covered the next seven weeks.

Each teacher will have posted Office Hours, a block of time for students and parents to speak in real time with the teacher about any questions or concerns. We suggest that you download the Remind app on your phone; it is a new way teachers will use to communicate with you.

During these stressful times, we want to make sure all students' social/emotional needs are met. Our social worker, Jill Fernandez, has developed a padlet in this regard. Please take a moment and look at her padlet. It can be found at: <https://padlet.com/jcarlini/xq8uzuv00dqd>

Teachers have developed Norms for the Virtual Classroom, one for elementary/one for secondary. These Norms are attached to this email. Over the weekend, please have your secondary students check their email for more detailed information. Attendance, participation and doing the work continues in the virtual learning world.

Please help us support your child's learning at home. We are all learning the virtual world together. The good part is...we are all in this together. There will be bumps in the road, but we will work together to provide the best education possible.

Thank you so much for all your support. We plan on starting slowly and gradually build momentum. Working together, we will make the best of whatever comes along.

Sincerely,

Kodi Sumpter, Superintendent
Des Moines Municipal Schools