



Kelvin Wymbs, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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August 30, 2021

Dear DD4 Families,

As you know, information about the spread of COVID-19 changes daily and it impacts our lives greatly. In response to the rising contraction rates, Dorchester School District Four will observe e-Learning Days on September 2-3, 2021 and transition, temporarily, to virtual learning effective Tuesday, September 7, 2021 until further notice. During e-Learning, your child will learn and complete assignments independently. Teachers will have office hours to answer any questions about the assignments. When virtual learning begins, your child will participate in live, remote instruction delivered by the child's teacher(s).

We will continue to monitor rates and re-evaluate the plan to resume in-person instruction for students who are not sick and not experiencing symptoms. The first update will be shared on the district's website on Friday, September 10, 2021.

Your child's school will distribute devices and hot-spots to students prior to Thursday, September 2, 2021. Teachers will post or email learning plans, assignments and schedules for parents who need to pick-up additional materials or supplies. If a family is unable to come to the school during posted pick-up times, the school's principal will notify parents of additional pick-up times. Meal delivery and mobile technology access schedules will be posted on school and district websites and emailed to parents.

In the upcoming days, our principals, teachers, counselors, social workers and technology staff will be contacting families to check in with them. Please note that phone calls may appear as "Blocked Call," "Confidential" or something similar, if you have caller ID. Please answer, it might be us calling! At this time, classroom teachers and support staff will be doing a number of things:

- Asking about internet connectivity and available technology at your home
- Ensuring that students have the necessary logins and passwords to connect with DD4 resources
- Ensuring that families are aware of the learning resources available online.

Gathering the information above will allow us to better plan for the needs of all of our students and engage support staff. Please note that when contacting parents, teachers may not have answers to many of your questions. However, we will endeavor to get answers as best we can as we refine our plans to keep students and staff safe.

This decision is a result of the impact of COVID-19 on our students, staff and our ability to safely conduct school operations. It reflects several factors to include the number of students and staff who are positive and those who are quarantined under the district's procedures in accordance with DHEC guidelines.

Your child's teacher and principal will provide additional information on instructional expectations during virtual learning. Any questions about instruction, athletics or extracurricular activities should be directed to your child's principal. The health and safety of our students and staff is always our number one priority. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Kelvin Wymbs'.

Kelvin Wymbs, Ed.D.
Superintendent