

*Dr. Joshua J. Isaacson
Superintendent*

De Soto #73 Public School District

*Dr. Doréan Dow
Assistant
Superintendent*



Superintendent's Office

Ensuring learning, growth, and success for all.

May 8, 2020

Fellow Dragons,

Today marks day 34 of virtual and alternative methods of learning for our students, staff, and parents. Only 12 more school days to go! Keep up the momentum because you are doing a tremendous job. Teachers have been in their classrooms preparing for our students to get their belongings in the upcoming days. Our food service, maintenance, custodial, and transportation departments will continue to provide meals through June 30, having served over 40,000 meals thus far. We will host a virtual summer school for all incoming 7-12 grade students, June 1-30, and students can register using our parent portal link by clicking [here](#). We also plan to hold a summer school session in July for grades K-6 and will provide additional information in the near future.

A special congratulations to all our students, especially to the Class of 2020. We are proud of all of you! We look forward to the virtual Senior Awards ceremony on May 22 at 7 p.m. and invite you to join in recognizing our seniors by watching via our De Soto Senior High School Facebook page. We also have a tentative date of an in-person graduation for July 31, 2020, if it is safe to do so based on recommendations from local health officials.

Earlier this week, we received guidance from the Jefferson County Health Department, recommending we keep our buildings and facilities closed through June 30, 2020, along with canceling all summer camps and sports practices through June 30. You [can click here to review](#) the letter from the Jefferson County Health Department. We will continue to re-evaluate as we move forward. Our main goal is to continue to minimize the transmission of COVID-19 and help prevent another spike in cases.

While we talk about wrapping up the end of the school year, our thoughts are also with how things may operate and how things may look when we are able to safely re-enter our schools and buildings. We are

forming a re-entry task force to research and discuss how we will continue learning while keeping our students safe when we come back to school. Issues we are looking at include curriculum and instruction, transportation, social distancing in the classroom, technology, health and wellness, special education, and much more. The district and building administrators, along with representatives from all schools, will serve on the committees addressing these issues. The groups will research items and documents that present considerations for re-entry such as the guidance from the [Missouri School Board Association](#) and the Jefferson County Health Department.

While we address those issues, we have to be prepared that school may look different next year. This could mean changes in how classrooms look or are operated, transportation, lunch shifts, and other procedures in place in our schools. While we don't know if these things will be impacted by COVID-19, we have to be prepared that they may. Our primary concern is the safety of our students, staff, and the community, and that will always be taken into consideration as we prepare for the upcoming school year.

We will continue to communicate using our various methods. Please ensure your contact information is up-to-date with the building office and you are connected to one or more of the following:

- District Website dedicated to COVID-19 information: bit.ly/2WjxOgx and [Food Service](#) information
- SchoolMessenger-phone and email
- Facebook page @DeSoto73Schools
- Twitter @DeSoto73

Keep up the great work. Stay healthy, stay safe, and stay connected. Thank you for your partnership during this time.

Respectfully,



Dr. Josh Isaacson,
Superintendent of Schools