

# Discovery Public School

## Distance Learning Plan Amendment for Extended Distance Learning Period 5/5/2020 to 6/30/2020

District #4081

Amended May 4, 2020

### **COMMUNICATION PATHWAYS WITH FAMILIES:**

*Describe how the school is communicating information and expectations to students and families. Address how this is accessible to all families in the school and does not amplify inequities.*

- ✓ DPS is communicating with families in the same way we did before distance learning began, via telephone messages and email. Inequities will not be amplified because our method of communication has not changed.

*Describe how families are to communicate concerns or questions to the school. Address how this pathway is accessible to all families in the school and does not amplify inequities.*

- ✓ We provided contact information via JMC message to all families so they may reach our director by phone or email as they have always been able to do. Our director also works at the school a few times per week to get any voicemail messages left by families who are not aware how to reach out to him by phone. Inequities are not amplified as families are communicating with the school in the same manner as we have all year.

*What platforms (technology systems) are families expected to maneuver in communicating with the school.*

- ✓ Families are not expected to maneuver any new platforms in communicating with the school. They may reach us by phone and email as always. Students may need to use Google Meet to have a face-to-face meeting with their teacher if they need help on an assignment. This is a very simple interface that is part of the G-Suite they are already familiar with.

*Describe how the school will reach out and overcome barriers that may exist in communication.*

- ✓ DPS is reaching out via phone to all families that have not been in communication with teachers to identify any specific needs that have not been met.

## **COMMUNITY INPUT ON STUDENT AND FAMILY NEEDS:**

*How has the school sought out information from the communities they serve to design a distance learning plan that works for those communities?*

- ✓ DPS has communicated frequently with Faribault Public Schools and other schools in our community to follow a similar format. Our director has reached out to other school leaders for input on their distance learning plans. Because we all serve the same community, we wanted to be consistent with other schools in the district regarding our distance learning plan. Several of our staff members and school board members are also part of our community, and we have valued their input in designing our distance learning plan.

*Describe how the school has reached out to determine what specific students need?*

- ✓ We have reached out to students and families directly, by phone or email, when there is any indication of a need, such as not checking in to classes or completing work. Because of our small enrollment, we are able to reach out to all of our students, and we notice when a student is not checking in. Our special education department has worked closely with students on their caseloads to make sure all individual needs are met. Offline work has been provided when necessary to meet individual student needs.

*Describe how the school has reached out to determine what specific families need?*

- ✓ DPS is reaching out via phone to all families that have not been in communication with teachers to identify any specific needs that have not been met. Chromebooks have been provided when necessary, and assistance in setting up free internet service has also been provided to families that were interested.

## **OTHER OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES:**

*Describe what additional outreach opportunities the school has pursued and/or participating in to provide for the needs of your students. Identify any partner organizations the school is working with.*

- ✓ DPS has partnered with Faribault Community Service to provide food to students in the community. The Discovery Public School parking lot is one of seven distribution locations for the community. We continue to work with Fernbrook Family Counseling to provide mental health support to our students. They meet with students on their caseload virtually, and also participate in our staff meetings to help in identifying students who are struggling with mental health issues during this time.

## **EXPANDING ACCESS TO, AND SUPPORT WITH, TECHNOLOGY:**

*Describe how the school identified the technology and or access needs of the students/families.*

- ✓ DPS conducted a technology survey in the fall to identify technology needs of students/families prior to implementing our eLearning plan for snow days. We were able to use this to begin identifying students with needs for our Distance Learning Plan. As we implemented our plan we contacted all families to provide information on free internet availability as well as offer the use of Chromebooks at home.

*Describe how the school worked to bridge the gaps identified to ensure equitable distance learning.*

- ✓ We provided Chromebooks to students who did not have a device to work from. We also provided information on free internet options. In some cases we have provided paper copies of work for students who had no other option.

## **PARTNERING TO SUPPORT STUDENT SAFETY AND WELLNESS:**

*Describe how the school is working to identify student safety and wellness concerns.*

- ✓ We discuss student wellness at each weekly staff meeting. Our on-site counselors are part of that meeting to help identify students who may be struggling with mental health or other wellness issues.

*Describe the procedures the school has put in place to be proactive in supporting student safety and wellness.*

- ✓ We have provided mental health resources to families through our messaging system and email. We have connected them to resources from our authorizer, Audubon Center of the North Woods and provided links to Rice County Mental Health Services. Our teachers and support staff communicate with students regularly, and are alert to possible signs of diminished mental health so we can reach out to individual students.