

## Distance Learning Plan for Discovery Public School of Faribault

Discovery Public School will implement Scenario 3: Distance Learning when it is not safe to conduct any classes in-person according to guidance from the Minnesota Department of Education and the Minnesota Department of Health, based on the weekly case numbers in Rice County. The DPS Distance Learning Plan will ensure that all enrolled students have equal access to the DPS learning program to continue their education during periods of time when in-person instruction is not safe. The Distance Learning Plan will function primarily through Google Classroom. DPS will also implement a new online curriculum through Edgenuity, which will allow for better tracking of student learning through formative and summative assessments within a system that is standards-based and customizable by individual teachers.

The COVID-19 Program Coordinator is our director Dan Weisser. He can be reached at [dweisser@isd4081.org](mailto:dweisser@isd4081.org) or 507-331-5423. Sharon Hansen ([shansen@isd4081.org](mailto:shansen@isd4081.org)) is our secondary coordinator.

When DPS changes models there may be a “pivot” day(s) for staff and students to adjust. Students will remain at home in Distance Learning while the school makes appropriate changes to the building for In-Person or Hybrid Learning (seating, spacing, etc.). Teachers will adjust their lesson plans accordingly. Plans will be communicated to families as early as possible.

### Operation Specifics

#### Social Distancing and Minimizing Exposure

Students who prefer to work offline, either due to connectivity issues or learning preferences, will have the option to pick up paper classwork. Work may be picked up at the school by appointment. Contactless pickup will be provided at the building. Teachers will have office hours once or twice a week where students can meet with them by appointment. All teachers and students will wear masks and maintain social distancing during these meetings. The number of students allowed to meet with teachers will be limited and spread out over the course of the day(s) teachers are available. Teachers will be allowed to telecommute the remaining days of each week.

School-age child care programs are not necessary for DPS as all of our students are in grades 6-12. If a student under age 12 is enrolled and their parent is a critical worker we will work with them to coordinate childcare.

Students will connect with teachers and complete lessons assigned through Google Classroom and Edgenuity. Both systems are designed for education, and have security measures in place to protect student data and privacy. Staff have all been instructed on data privacy laws and will

continue to maintain student privacy. Specific information on the privacy policy for each platform can be found at:

G-Suite for Education: [https://edu.google.com/why-google/privacy-security/?modal\\_active=none](https://edu.google.com/why-google/privacy-security/?modal_active=none)

Edgenuity: <https://www.edgenuity.com/privacy-policy/>

Discovery will loan Chromebooks to students in need of a device. We have used a portion of our ESSR funds to purchase additional Chromebooks to meet this need in addition to classroom availability. Families who do not have internet access will be given offline work to complete during distance learning. During Distance Learning, staff will be in the building two days per week. During this time, students without internet access may meet with teachers for direct instruction and/or use the internet at the school to complete online work.

## **Student and Family Support**

A survey was conducted at the end of last school year, and that feedback has been used to improve our distance learning plan for this year. Student engagement was an issue, so we will be adding increased expectation for student-teacher interaction with the new plan. We will also be using a new online platform (Edgenuity) to improve the rigor of our online curriculum.

We will have frequent contact with families when we notice lack of engagement. We are a small school so we find it easier to know the needs of our students and families. We will send out communication asking for feedback on individual needs for families, such as technology needs or meals.

We will be using the Faribault Public Schools' lunch program to provide meals to students while they are distance learning.

We do not currently serve any English Language Learners. We would address these needs in addition to the structural changes we would make if we gained an EL student during the course of the 2020-21 school year.

DPS will continue to support each student's IEP plan during distance learning. DPS has contracted a Special Education Director and has two Special Education teachers. All student IEP requirements will be met that can be met in this mode of learning or the next best approach will be used. Teachers will provide direct minutes via phone or video chat. IEP meetings will be held remotely by Google Hangouts. All legal requirements will be fulfilled. Teachers will check in with students and manage accommodations. Materials students need to meet IEP plans will be provided whether online or delivered. Interactions will include virtual meetings and phone conferences.

## **Academic Considerations**

To address learning loss from last year, our distance learning program will include a new learning platform that provides assessments to target specific learning loss for each individual student. We

will also administer NWEA MAP growth assessments early in the school year, and use the data to address student learning needs.

During the Distance Learning time, the expectation is that teachers and students communicate daily to support student engagement. Students should follow the current interaction plans with their teachers for classes, lessons, and other activities.

For students using standard DPS online distance learning, all teachers will be available by phone and email during school hours. Teachers and support staff will communicate and connect with each student daily. They will be able to address specific student needs. For students not using standard DPS online distance learning, materials will be provided via contactless pick up at the school building by appointment. Either way students will need to communicate with teachers daily.

To reduce chronic truancy and re-engage students who struggled with distance learning last year, we will be requiring weekly synchronous class meetings. The hope is that students will re-engage, not only with the teacher, but with their classmates to encourage them to continue learning.

DPS will continue to communicate with families regarding any connectivity concerns. If students are not able to complete work online the school will provide alternative materials to ensure all students receive instruction and materials. Google Classroom has text and other resources set up that can be converted to printed format as needed. Students are able to communicate during the day with their teachers via email, phone, or text.

Should there be any problems connecting with students, teachers and/or support staff will reach out to students in alternative ways and contact parents.

NWEA MAP Growth Assessments will be administered as soon as possible while we are able to use in person or hybrid learning. Data from these assessments will be used to determine learning needs for individual students and provide specific instruction to mitigate learning loss in each core subject area.

## **Professional Learning**

Staff will be trained on our new learning platform, Edgenuity, before the school year starts, with supplemental training throughout the year. Staff will also be trained on COVID-19 concerns and how to maintain social distancing. We will also schedule professional development throughout the year dealing with hybrid or online learning and mental health.

*School Board Approved: August 20, 2020*