



Grapevine

Daviess County Public Schools Staff Newsletter
August 31-September 4, 2020

DCPS to transition to ‘Orange’ status

-  **NTI - Digital**
-  **A-B P-8 / Digital 9-12**
-  **A-B Schedule**
-  **5-Day In-Person**

The Daviess County Public Schools district began the year on the “Red” status of our Stoplight Model. The district will transition to “Orange” status starting Sept. 14.

In This Issue

- DCPS Transitions to ‘Orange’ Status Ready to Protect!
- Better Together Apparel Now Available!
- Maintenance and Construction Update
- Healthy Lifestyle Tip of the Week
- Kentucky Math Teacher Leaders
- DCPS Excellence in Teaching Honorees
- D/HH: Communicating from the Heart
- Music Notes on NTI
- Thank You for Going the Extra Mile!
- Six Feet Apart but Close at Heart
- DCPS Leadership and Staffing Update
- Helpful Resources Available for You!
- Change of Status Reminder

Send News and Information to
grapevine@dcps.org

A Message from the Superintendent

DCPS Team –

I remain committed to keeping you informed with important updates. This is more essential than ever as we navigate an environment that requires the support and cooperation of our entire community in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and the changing landscape it brings to our community, state and nation.



Matt Robbins

The Daviess County Public Schools district has adopted the Harvard Global Health Institute (HGHI) COVID-19 risk level model, which aligns with information disseminated by the Green River District Health Department (GRDHD) and the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH). These levels of status originate at the local level (GRDHD) and then are communicated and translated to the state and national levels. DCPS will respond according to the GRDHD assessment of our community COVID-19 status.

The HGHI model assigns a “color strategy” to identify the risk level in any given community based on the number of positive cases per 100,000 people (see Page 2). The colors assigned are Green, Yellow, Orange and Red. Learn more at <https://globalhealth.harvard.edu/> (Scroll down on homepage; click on map. Choose “Kentucky” from the list of states at left, then select the “County” option to see the current status of Daviess County.)

DCPS has developed a “stoplight” model for in-person teaching and learning that reflects this approach so that our school district most accurately reflects designations assigned to our community.

Continued on Next Page

DCPS to transition to ‘Orange’ status

Continued from Page One

As DCPS transitions in levels of distance and in-person teaching and learning, we will adopt a two-week strategy. This means that Daviess County must experience two consecutive weeks of improved status before we will move down the continuum of strategies (from Red to Orange to Yellow to Green).

However, due to the need for an immediate, emergency response, DCPS will respond swiftly in moving up the scale from levels of in-person to distance learning (example: Status could change from Green to Orange without a transition period of Yellow).

Descriptions of both DCPS and community responses for each of the four statuses in the HGHI model are summarized in this article. Click [HERE](#) for more detailed descriptions of what each color-coded status will look like for DCPS students, families and staff.

Green = Five-Day In-Person Learning

Yellow = A/B Hybrid Schedule

Orange = A/B Hybrid Schedule for grades PreK-8 with small group restrictions; Distance Learning for grades 9-12 (small groups allowable within KDE guidelines)

Red = Distance Learning for all P-12 Students (no In-Person Learning)

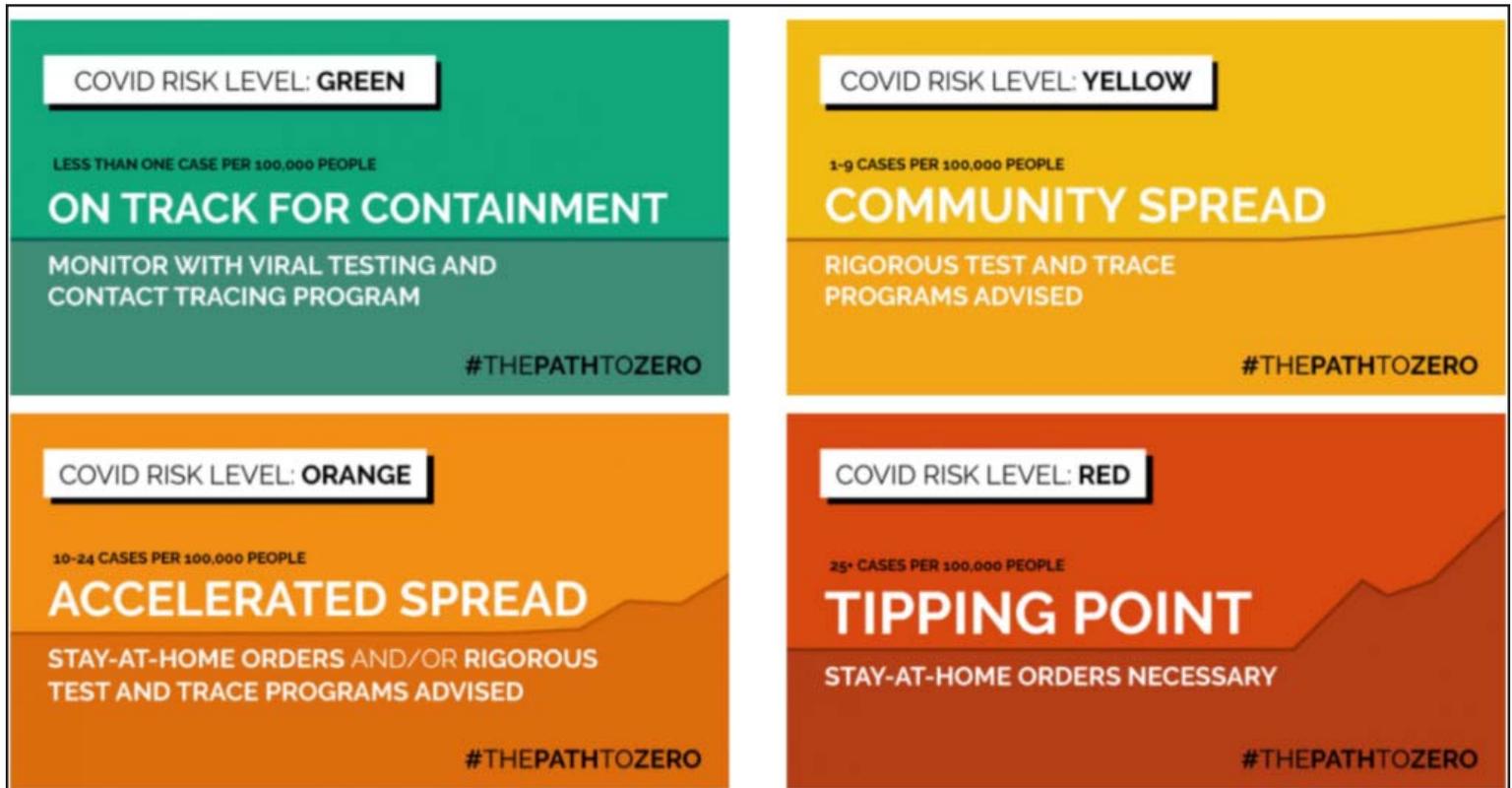
This plan will allow DCPS to respond in an organized, rational way to changing conditions with a goal of helping our community understand the reasons for any changes in status that may be implemented throughout the year. It is also essential for every member of our community – students, families and staff – to have a clear understanding of the expectations that are involved with any of the four levels of status.

IT IS OUR PLAN TO TRANSITION FROM OUR CURRENT STATUS OF RED TO ORANGE STATUS STARTING ON MONDAY, SEPT. 14.

This means elementary and middle school students whose parents/guardians selected the In-Person Instruction/ A-B Schedule option for their family will begin attending classes in person on the A-B Schedule on Sept. 14. High school students in grades 9-12 will continue to participate in Non-Traditional Instruction as they have been doing since Aug. 26. Virtual Academy students will remain in that status.

Daviess County has been in Orange status on the HGHI model for two weeks. Although our teachers have been, and will continue to provide outstanding learning experiences for students through distance teaching, we know kids learn best in an in-person, traditional classroom environment.

Continued on Next Page



The Daviess County Public Schools district follows guidance from the Green River District Health Department, which also aligns with reports from the Kentucky Department for Public Health and the Harvard Global Health Institute.

DCPS to transition to 'Orange' status

Continued from Previous Page

This will be accomplished with strict adherence to health and safety guidelines, including “the three W’s:”

- Watch Your Distance – Six feet of distance between individuals must be maintained at all times.
- Wear a Mask – Masks, face coverings and other appropriate levels of personal protective equipment must be utilized anytime six feet of physical distancing is not possible.
- Wash Your Hands – Practice good hygiene with regular handwashing and implementing cleaning and sanitizing practices for both individuals and facilities.

At this time: The DCPS district has a total of seven staff members who have tested positive for COVID-19. An additional 35 staff members and 19 students are currently under quarantine. We are working to ensure compliance with all health and safety practices and protocols to avoid the spread of this virus within our schools and our community.

As leaders and role models, it is important for all adults to model the behaviors and attitudes we wish to see in our students. Please familiarize yourself with the “DCPS Information for Families and Staff” document to learn more about what each of the various teaching and learning models look like for the 2020-21 year, and a summary of expectations for students, staff and families, so you can accurately respond to any questions you may receive from parents or students.

Regardless of the challenges we may face now or in the future, be assured that Daviess County Public Schools remains solidly committed to providing the BEST education for ALL the students entrusted to our care.

Thank you for your “Kids First” commitment and your dedication to doing your BEST on behalf of the students and families we serve!

Put the 'Fun' in Fundraisers!

Send news about school events and fundraisers to grapevine@dcps.org



Ready to Protect



What do 2.5 million face masks look like? A lot like this. DCPS purchasing supervisor Derrick Payne is pictured with some of the face masks he was able to purchase this summer so our schools will be prepared for the return of students to in-person learning in our classrooms. This supply was based on calculations of providing a face mask for every child enrolled in our schools every day. Derrick and his team have also worked diligently to acquire ample supplies of hand sanitizer, disinfectants, personal protective equipment and other supplies with a goal of ensuring the health and safety of our students and staff members.

#teamDCPS: Better Together apparel now available!



Wear and share our 2020 Daviess County Public Schools district theme with pride with these “Better Together / #teamDCPS” T-shirts in short- or long-sleeve styles, sweatshirts, hoodies and fleeces.

Click [HERE](#) to view style, fabric and pricing options. Order deadline is 11:59 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 6. For more information, contact Midwest Graphix at orders@midwest-graphix.com or 812-649-2326.

Coming Soon:

Kids First clothing store opens soon

Orders for “Kids First” apparel will be available soon. Watch the Grapevine for more information.

DCPS Maintenance and Construction Update



This monthly report is provided by David Shutt, DCPS director of facilities and plant operations. His staff remains committed to ensuring safe, comfortable and attractive environments for teaching and learning.

Athletic Field Renovations AHS and DCHS Fields

Danco is currently working through the remaining punch list items at both locations to close out

the Apollo and Daviess County high school field construction projects.

AHS Phase III Renovations

Footing and foundation wall work continues for the addition. The portion of the new sanitary sewer line being installed in the parent drop off/pickup drive has been completed, and the new temporary exit for the drive is ready for concrete. The next 30 days will see completion of the sanitary sewer relocation and interior foundations, and a start on under slab plumbing installation.

The greenhouse is awaiting the delivery of backordered lighting and the completion of a relocated gas line. The punch list walk down is scheduled for the last week of August.

New Middle School

The building pad for the new Daviess County Middle School is substantially complete. Envision is working to dress up around the perimeter of the pad and do final grade work on the remainder of the property.

LED Lighting

The LED lighting project at Deer Park Elementary School is currently in progress and 50% complete.

Summer 2020 Projects

EVES/MLES Flooring

Tile installation has been completed at both East View and Meadow Lands elementary schools.

AES/TES EIFS

Repair and painting has been completed at Tamarack Elementary School. Painting is 50% complete at Audubon Elementary School, and new gutters will be installed after painting activities are complete.

Healthy Lifestyle Tip of the Week

Exercise SMART to reach long-term fitness goals.

Use small, measured steps to stay committed and keep up the progress.

S	M	A	R	T
Specific	Measurable	Achievable	Realistic	Timebound
What do I want to accomplish?	How will I know when it is accomplished?	How can the goal be accomplished?	Does this seem worthwhile?	When can I accomplish this goal?

These weekly fitness reminders are brought to you by the DCPS Food Services Department. We care about you! Learn more at www.moveitmonday.org

Six Feet Apart – But Close at Heart



The Valley School team shows their “Kids First” spirit by wearing face masks and maintaining social distancing of six feet on the first day of school.

State Mathematics Teacher Leader Honorees

Three DCPS educators have been named Kentucky Math Teacher Leaders by the Kentucky Center for Mathematics. These teachers were selected for this honor based on a rigorous application and interview process.

Catie Bailey and Brittney Brasher, both teachers at Sorgho Elementary School, and Tiffany Bratcher, a teacher at Burns Middle School, will collaborate with colleagues from across Kentucky to strengthen their skills in leadership, mathematics content and pedagogy.

Catie Bailey is entering her 10th year teaching at Sorgho Elementary School. She currently teaches fifth grade self-contained, although has always had a passion for mathematics. Catie enjoys seeing students learn and thrive in mathematics and master the standards. It is her goal to help students fill their gaps and gain confidence in math. She looks forward to being a KYMTL as it will allow her to share her passion with other educators and continue to grow as math teacher.



Catie Bailey

Brittney Brasher is a graduate of Western Kentucky University, where she completed undergraduate studies in elementary education in 2005, and earned a master of arts degree in teaching from Oakland City University in 2009. Brittney earned National Board Certification in 2019 as a middle childhood generalist. Brittney has completed her 15th year teaching fourth- and fifth-grade math and English language arts at Sorgho Elementary School. She

and her colleagues have worked diligently to vet math curriculums that provide their students with the essential mathematics skills necessary for success.

Tiffany Bratcher is a current seventh-grade math teacher at Burns Middle School, where she is making great progress towards advancing her teaching practices and leadership abilities. She has a master's degree in curriculum and instruction, as well as recently completing her education specialist degree in supervisor of instruction. She has been involved in many leadership roles at BMS. She currently serves as the homeroom committee leader, sponsors Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and is a valuable member of the mathematics department at her school. Her experience in incorporating high quality curriculum and the knowledge of how to differentiate instruction based on student needs allows her to create a positive and exciting learning environment. Her desire to impact education across the state makes her an outstanding teacher leader.



Brittney Brasher



Tiffany Bratcher

The Kentucky Center for Mathematics is a leader in the evolution of mathematics teaching and learning across the state of Kentucky.

Thank You for Going the Extra Mile!



DCPS Superintendent Matt Robbins and members of the Board of Education wave and shout words of appreciation to Transportation Department staff members during a drive-through lunch on June 17. On the following day, food services and computer operations staff members were treated to lunch as a special “thank you” for their work in preparing and serving meals, delivering food and instructional materials to students, and providing outstanding technical support that made our Non-Traditional Instruction experience in spring so successful.

Lunch was provided by our community partners at Chick-fil-A.

Educators honored for Excellence in Teaching

Three DCPS educators have been honored as recipients of the 2020 Campbellsville University Excellence in Teaching Awards.

As DCPS 2019 Kids First Teacher of the Year Award winners, Allie Lindow, a kindergarten and second grade teacher at Country Heights Elementary School; Laura Murphy, an eighth-grade language arts teacher at Daviess County Middle School; and Paul Bates, a life sciences teacher at Apollo High School, were nominated as representatives of DCPS elementary, middle and high school levels, and are among 217 educators statewide who were honored by the 34th annual awards program. A traditional ceremony that would have been hosted by Campbellsville University was cancelled this year in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

The award recognizes teachers who have demonstrated energy and enthusiasm for teaching; efficient scheduling of time; reliability; professional integrity and cooperation. These teachers have also shown imagination and originality in meeting the diverse needs of their classrooms, have worked toward continuous improvement, maintain strong relationships between school and community, and have demonstrated exceptional character.

Allie Lindow has taught at Country Heights Elementary School since 2015. She previously taught kindergarten at West Louisville Elementary School from 2011 until 2015. She received her bachelor of science degree in elementary education from Kentucky Wesleyan College in 2011, as well as her master's in literacy specialist in 2015 from the University of the Cumberlands. She has also received National Board Certification in elementary and middle grades literacy.

Laura Murphy has taught at Daviess County Middle School since 2009. She is a 2009 graduate of Kentucky Wesleyan College, where she studied middle grades education/language arts and history. She also attended the University of the Cumberlands, where she was in the Teacher Leader program and graduated in 2014. She received her Rank I (Literacy Design Specialty) in 2016 from the University of the Cumberlands, where she is currently working toward obtaining her doctorate degree



Allie Lindow



Laura Murphy



Paul Bates

in education.

Paul Bates teaches life sciences for grades 10-12 at Apollo High School, where he has been a teacher since 1999. He received a bachelor of science degree in biology in 1995 from Kentucky Wesleyan College, and a master of arts degree in education administration from Western Kentucky University in 2001. Paul received his Rank I in principalship from WKU in 2006.

“Allie, Laura and Paul are dedicated to our district’s mission of putting Kids First and ensuring a meaningful learning experience for all students in their classrooms,” said DCPS Superintendent Matt Robbins. “They truly exemplify the highest ideals of Excellence in Teaching as they make a difference in the lives of our students!”

Dr. Donna Hedgepath, provost and vice president for academic affairs at Campbellsville University, said, “The Excellence in Teaching program is one of our most meaningful tributes to Kentucky teachers. Teachers deserve recognition for pouring themselves into the lives of our P-12 students. Teachers not only serve students in the classroom, but they make profound impacts in their students’ personal lives and on their future. I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the best of the best in education!”

Laura Murphy honored with Teacher Achievement Award

Laura Murphy was also honored as one of 24 educators in Kentucky to receive the 2020 Valvoline Teacher Achievement Award. “I am

truly grateful to receive such a recognition,” Laura said. “Education has always been a rewarding field because of the ever-changing, evolving nature of what we do. One thing that remains constant, however, is our desire to see students succeed in spite of the circumstances around us. Educators have responded to the new challenges and adapted lessons and procedures so quickly. I am proud to work in a school district that means it when they say they put ‘Kids First!’”

Editor’s Note: DCPS 2020 Kids First Award winners will be announced soon. Stay tuned!

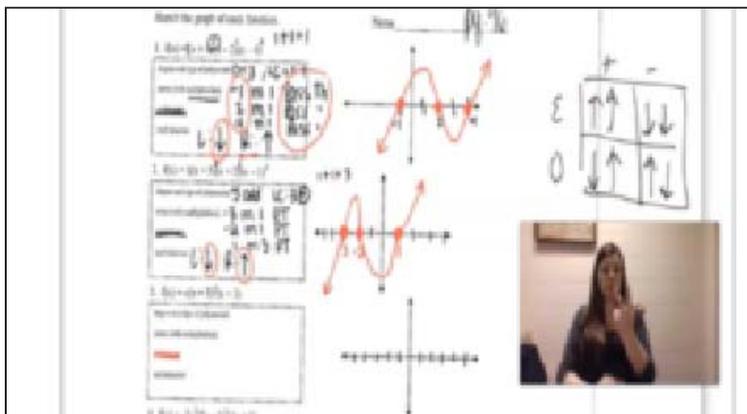
Communicating from the Heart



Maranda Maurer provided direct instruction in American Sign Language to one of her deaf high school students who did not have internet connection during NTI. They were able to communicate through the door at his home.

When Google meetings were held between teachers and students, interpreters would join to ensure equal access to the lesson for the DHH students. Interpreters also provided one-on-one sessions daily for students so that ASL could be provided as necessary.

Screencastify was another program that was used heavily to provide American Sign Language to students. Teachers would share prepared instructional videos with voice-over so that the interpreters could add an ASL video. Two math examples are in the photos at left and right below; Megan Hunt provides interpreting during an algebra lesson at the high school level while Carrie Stelmach interprets a middle school math lesson.



By Maranda Maurer
Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Teachers of the deaf/hard of hearing and educational interpreters of the Daviess County Public Schools district worked diligently during the NTI days to meet the needs of their students. Technology was key for this success. For the youngest students who need access to signing peers and adults to grow their skills, the Google Meet platform was used as featured in the picture at top right, showing Madison Koller, interpreter, as she led some signing time with families.

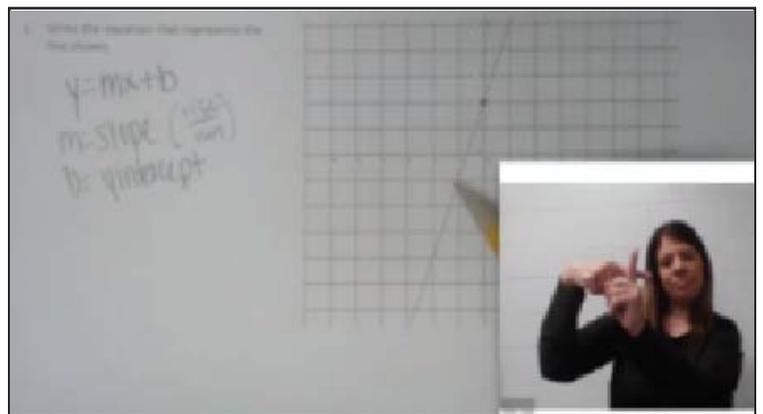


Videos including sign language were also used for literature activities across grade levels. Mandi McCann, interpreter, created signed summaries of chapters from the class novel at the middle school level and emailed them directly to students' accounts. Lisa Howe, who is a deaf language model for elementary students, also created read aloud videos using ASL for the younger students, which were then uploaded to YouTube for families to view together. See next page for those photos.

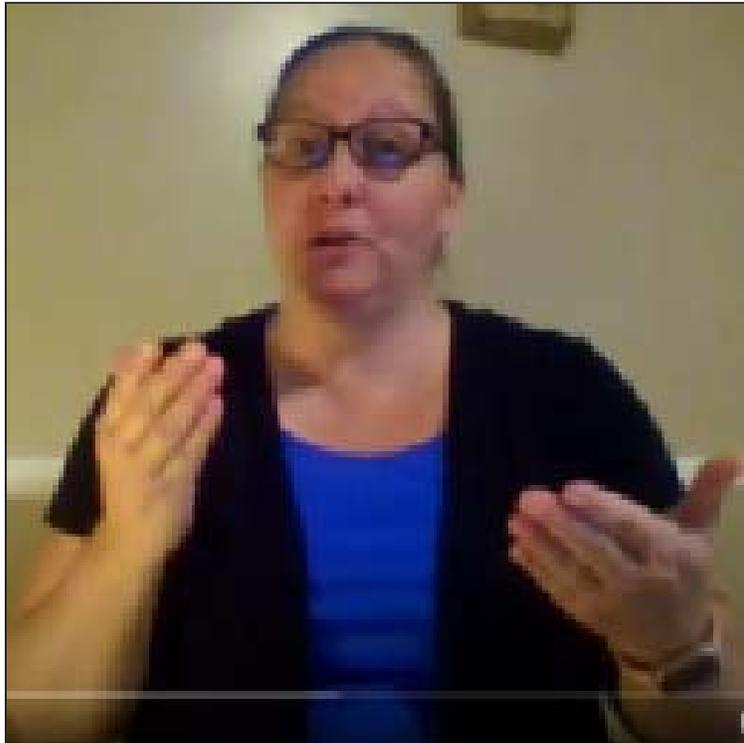
Crystal Corum, teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing, utilized slide presentations to bring her lessons to life in her Google classrooms. Photo on next page.

Over the course of the NTI days, there were even some instances when students and staff came together using necessary precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Denise Lautenschleger, interpreter, participated in a video project, masked in an open environment and staying 6 feet away from her student.

These are just a handful of examples to highlight how the DHH team came together to provide opportunities of success for their students. Thank you to everyone who demonstrated outstanding commitment to keeping our deaf and hard of hearing students connected in NTI!

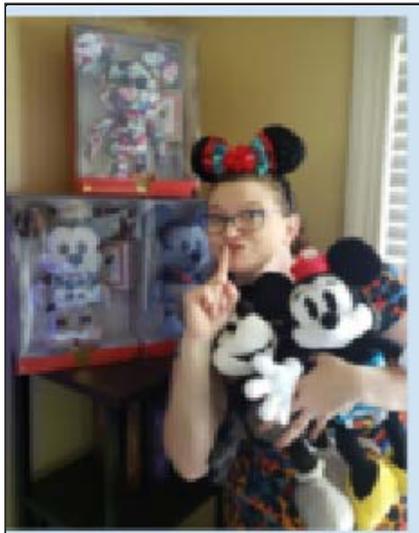


From the Heart



Above: Lisa Howe and Mandi McCann created videos to support literacy during the DCPS district's Non-Traditional Instruction period from March to May 2020.

Right: Crystal Corum illustrates the idiom "quiet as a mouse" for her students, teaching them that this phrase means "very, very quiet."



Music Notes on NTI



By Karen Alward

DCPS Fine and Performing Arts Coordinator

Non-Traditional Instruction did not stop our arts teachers from doing great things!

Rebecca Volk made superstardom on MusTech.Net for her classroom videos during NTI. Click [HERE](#) to check out this episode where she is featured. Some of the biggest names in music education are featured on this website. This is huge! Plus, those NTI videos she did on the elements of music are AMAZING!

Also, Karen Feldhaus from DCHS held a virtual drama camp in June. Ten students participated in the two-day event. Campers included recent grads, current and future high school students. They attended 30-minute workshops on stage lighting, stage management, the voice and improvisation. All workshops were led by alumni. A screencap from the virtual drama camp is pictured above.

Rebecca Volk was one of the online presenters at the camp; here is what she said about this experience:

"The arts have been alive in dark times in the past and they will remain alive now. They will change and we will adjust. A pandemic doesn't mean the arts will cease to exist; we are just forced to be safer. More creative. To think outside of the box. In some ways, this may be a MORE effective way to reach them as so many students are already more comfortable online. The kids must still feel they have a community within the arts when everything else is so up in the air. I miss the face-to-face interactions, but I am loving the new opportunities that I might not otherwise have had time for."

As the new school year begins, DCPS arts team continues to find creative ways to keep kids connected. Now more than ever, it is essential for all of us to find meaning in expressing ourselves through the visual and performing arts.

Leadership and Staffing Update

As the 2020-2021 school year begins, we are honored to introduce several new administrators, instructional leaders and key support personnel to our team, as well as announcing some familiar faces in new places. Please extend a warm welcome to the newest members of our DCPS family!

Sara Duke
Guidance Counselor,
Audubon
Elementary School



Bar Jor
Migrant Advocate/
Recruiter



Chad Alward
Director,
DCPS
Virtual Academy



Connie Fillman
Director of
Food Services
(effective Oct. 1)



Angie Leachman
Bookkeeper,
Highland
Elementary School

Karen Alward
Fine and Performing
Arts Coordinator



Beth Fleming
Guidance Counselor,
Heritage Park
High School



Lexie Lindsey
Migrant Advocate/
Recruiter



Sara Appleby
Instructional Coach,
Daviess County
Middle School



Jessica Graham
Instructional Coach,
Southern Oaks
Elementary School



Jimmy Lyddane
Support Services
Interventionist

Faith Butler
Guidance Counselor,
Burns Middle
School



Kendall Jarboe
School Psychologist



Shiryl McAdams
Elementary
Reading Intervention
Coach



Cassie Campbell
Guidance Counselor,
Daviess County
High School



Jessica Jones
Instructional Coach,
Daviess County
High School



Marci Riley
Instructional Coach,
Deer Park
Elementary School

Continued on
Next Page

Leadership and Staffing Update Continued from previous page

Tim Roy
Assistant Principal,
Burns
Middle School



Melissa Shoulta
Guidance Counselor,
Deer Park
Elementary School



Mark Starns
Dean of Students,
Apollo High School



Andrew Self
Dean of Students,
Daviess County
High School



Teresa Smith
Instructional Coach,
College View
Middle School



Aaron Yeiser
Instructional
Technology
Coordinator

Larry Shadowen
Assistant Principal,
Highland
Elementary School



Have we missed anyone?

Please send information and photos of new administrators and/or staff members who serve the DCPS district to grapevine@dcps.org by Friday, Sept. 4.



Change of Status? Let Us Know!

If you have moved, changed your phone number, changed your name or had other changes in status, please be sure your information is updated in Infinite Campus.

You will **also** need to submit a Change of Status form to the DCPS Personnel Department. That form is available on our website [HERE](#).

Helpful Resources for YOU

Our district website offers a wide variety of helpful information and resources for families and community ... and staff. Items recently posted that may be of interest include the following. Click the headlines to go directly to these pages.

[DCPS Information for Families and Staff document](#) – This comprehensive overview is posted in English, Spanish and Burmese languages.

[DCPS Stoplight Model](#) – Explanation of the four levels that are available for implementation (Green, Yellow, Orange, Red).

[DCPS Virtual Academy](#) – Schedule, resources, links, grade-level information ... everything you need to know!

[DCPS Curbside Meal Service](#)– Locations, service hours, menus etc.

[DCPS Community WiFi Hotspots](#) – Locations and hours of availability for WiFi hotspots on DCPS campuses and at community locations.

[Virtual Learning Resources for Families and Students](#) – Information and tutorial videos about Google Classrooms, Google Apps and more.

[Group A and Group B](#) – Calendars and attendance schedules for In-Person Instruction, Digital Learning and Hybrid Learning days.

For more information, write to contact@dcps.org