



# DAVIDSONVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## Imagine, Believe, and Achieve

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December 2020

### Support DES!

Even though we're still virtual, the needs still exist. Please consider supporting the students of DES through the following:

#### PTO Fisher's Popcorn Fundraiser

[www.fisherspopcornfundraising.com](http://www.fisherspopcornfundraising.com) Use code: DES2020

#### PTO Membership

[www.despto.org](http://www.despto.org)

#### PTO Amazon Smile

[www.despto.org](http://www.despto.org) or go to the site: [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and sign up to support Davidsonville Elementary with every order.

Stay Informed by signing up for the Gator Blast email distribution. This is a great place to keep up on school and community events. [www.despto.org](http://www.despto.org)

### Principal's Message

As we approach the end of 2020, I continue to count my blessings. I am so amazed each day when I watch the teachers and students navigate this virtual world. While we know it is no substitute for being in our school, the connections being made and the learning taking place each day are remarkable. We are now in a smooth routine each day. The schedule remains tight, as we've tried to compact everything into a morning session and an afternoon session. It is important that students are present for the *entire* school day. In this virtual world we are noticing kids arriving late or leaving early. In some cases, students are leaving their home-room class, but never going to their Cultural Arts class. I'm asking parents to monitor timing and engagement and make attendance a priority. A worry of ours is the decrease in learning stamina for our students. We must help them to maintain good study habits and place school as a priority.

In this virtual world, report cards and interims have not been mailed home. Rather, parents are to look on the Parent Portal to view their child's progress. Please continue to do this regularly. Teachers are marking missing work and including comments to parents when necessary. This is the best place to make sure your child is keeping up. This system is not available for kindergarten students.

As you count your blessings this holiday season, you may be wondering how you can show your gratitude to our teachers. There are many virtual gift giving options that can be sent to them through email. If you prefer dropping a gift at the school for them to pick up, we just ask that you do this prior to December 18th so they have adequate time to retrieve it before the holiday break.

We've certainly learned this year that the school cannot work in isolation. We need you and you need us—we're in this together. Please know that as I end this memorable calendar year, being a part of this community has been at the top of my list of blessings. Be safe and healthy, and have a Happy New Year!

Mrs. Colleen Harris



### School Calendar



#### December

- 8-23...Countdown to 2021 Spirit Days (see flyer)
- 18...Interims Released (Parents to check Parent Portal)
- 24-31...No School: Winter Break

#### January

- 1...No School: Winter Break
- 4...First day back in 2021
- 18...No School: MLK, Jr. Birthday
- 28-29...2 Hour Early Dismissal - end of the 2nd Marking Period

\*A decision will be made around this time for a hybrid return of students to buildings.

#### February

- 1...No School for Students—End of 2nd Marking Period
- 9...Report Cards mailed home
- 10...2 Hour Early Dismissal
- 15...No School: President's Day

#### March

- 5...Interims sent home
- 10...School Closed: Parent/Teacher Conferences

**SCHOOL SECURITY:** DES is equipped with a video camera system. It covers selected interior and exterior public portions of the building and grounds. It is not monitored constantly, but it is monitored during emergency situations. During certain events, when the safety or security of students may be in question, authorized personnel from local, state, or federal police or fire emergency units may be given access to view images projected on the camera system.

### OFFICE

**While the school still remains closed to the public, the office will be covered daily from 8am-4pm. If you need us, don't hesitate to reach out at anytime.**

**Office Phone: 410-222-1655  
Fax: 410-222-1682**

#### SECRETARIES

**Liz Lewnes  
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**Amy Lockett  
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**Jackie Clarke  
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### iReady

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) required all school systems to implement a diagnostic assessment this school year to determine student performance in reading and math. The initial benchmark was given in September. Since that time, teachers are involving students in the iReady program during the school day when possible. In addition, they are suggesting students go on at home when possible. There will be another diagnostic at the mid-year point, so in order for students to make growth as measured by iREADY, they must move through the lessons. Great information can be found at [www.aacps.org/iready](http://www.aacps.org/iready).

### Counselor's Corner

Your day-to-day life has been impacted in unexpected and difficult ways. This pandemic is stressful, and it can seem overwhelming to deal with, especially during the holiday season, for both parents and students. Although difficult, it is important to talk to your child about how they are feeling about the scary things that are happening around us. Navigating these conversations may be different depending on the developmental age of your child, but allowing them to talk and process their feelings helps them manage the impacts of all the disruptions and changes. Preparing them in advance of any changes will help keep the excitement alive!

To reach me:  
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