



DAVIDSONVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Imagine, Believe, and Achieve

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Support DES!

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

Joe Corbi Fundraiser
[Visit the website today](#)
Use code #9833

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

WELCOME!

We want to welcome Mr. Ross Foca as our newest Gator! He is our part-time general music teacher. He replaced Mrs. Ciecierski who retired last month.

Principal's Message

Happy New Year! Each January at DES, our school staff has made a habit of reflecting on the year ahead. Inspired by the Jon Gordon book, "One Word," we all make individual decisions on the word that will be the driving force in our actions moving forward. While this act is rather simple, the impact it has had on many of us is so incredibly positive. With so much turmoil and angst in our world right now, thinking positive, being intentional, and seeking change from within ourselves are continued goals of ours. We'd love for you to join us—what's your one word?

I suspect you continue to have many questions regarding our eventual return to our school building. As you are aware, we will remain fully virtual through the end of January. In order to define a timeline past that point, our Board of Education (BOE) has planned an additional meeting this Thursday evening. In the meantime, a new parent survey has been launched so you are able to let us know your intent for your children to remain virtual for the remainder of the school year or return in the hybrid format. That survey ends on Sunday, January 17th. After we know the return timeline and our student survey data is made available to us, we will be able to sort students into hybrid cohorts and virtual classrooms. We had practice doing this in the fall, so we are hopeful the hiccups we had at that time will be worked out in this round. Thank you in advance for recognizing all of the moving parts that we must consider when preparing for a safe return to our school.

Student attendance continues to be critical to student success, even in the virtual world. The state of Maryland monitors schools based on their overall attendance rates annually. Families with students in the at-risk range have been notified as we move into this second half of the school year. Thank you to everyone for making attendance a priority and demonstrating to our young people the importance of simply showing up.

Mrs. Colleen Harris



School Calendar



January

14...BOE Virtual Meeting
*A decision will be made at this time regarding a timeline for returning students to buildings.
17...Reopening Survey Closes
18...No School: MLK, Jr. Birthday
20...BOE Virtual Meeting
28-29...2 Hour Early Dismissal - End of the 2nd Marking Period

February

1...No School for Students—End of 2nd Marking Period
2...New Daily Schedule Begins
3...BOE Virtual Meeting
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

April

1-5...No School—Spring Break
13-14...2 Hour Early Dismissal

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.

YEARBOOK UPDATE

Our PTO plans to publish a yearbook this year despite our unique circumstances. We hope to have a picture day later this spring and also collect as many at-home pictures as we can. While much of the yearbook has always been captured during school events and during the school day, this year we will need everyone's help. Check out a recent PTO Gator Blast where they provided a link to submit photos online.

As is the case every year when putting together the yearbook, not every picture that is submitted can be used. Keep in mind, we will capture this unique year by including pictures that were taken before and during COVID. We understand that in some photos students may or may not be wearing masks based on the setting and guidelines over the past year. However, AACPS will not allow any yearbook photos on school property where COVID guidelines were not followed.

As we have done for the past 11 months, we will rise above our circumstances and work together to create a meaningful keepsake for our students. Thank you for doing your part to support this initiative!

Counselor's Corner

Parents might be feeling overwhelmed with life at the moment and even questioning their parenting skills. I recently learned of Dr. Becky Kennedy, a Clinical Psychologist in New York City. I find her advice to be helpful and practical. Recently, Dr. Kennedy talked about holding difficult conversations with kids. Below are a few statements I wanted to pass along. If interested, you can follow Dr. Kennedy at @drbeckyathome on Instagram.

- In our family, we always talk about things that are true, even if they are uncomfortable.
- Here's what I know....Here's what I don't know...Remember I am here.
- I know. I have the same question. I also don't know what's going to happen next. When I know more, I will share. I am so glad you are asking these great questions.

You can reach me at: cisett@aacps.org or by phone via Google Voice at (301) 966-2525.