

Dermott School District
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Kristi Gathen-Ridgell, Superintendent



June 26, 2020

Dear Parents and Community Members,

I am writing you to provide information regarding the opening of schools in August. Governor Hutchinson announced the plan to return to onsite instruction during his daily press conference on June 11, 2020. He stated "When it comes to education, as I have said before and we want to emphasize today our plans are to go back to school next year in the school year in regular classroom fashion supplemented by online learning as needed."

What this means for Dermott School District and schools across the state is that we plan to open as normal with additional precautions in place to provide a safe environment for our students and staff. It also means that we will have "Blended Learning is the use of virtual access for our students to connect with their teacher while at one of our virtual sites. This option allows students to continue their course work from home if the parent feels it is best for their child. We feel that onsite instruction in the presences of our teachers is the most effective learning environment and are excited to hear Governor Hutchinson announce the plan to return to school in August. However, we also realize the concerns regarding COVID-19 and that some may wish to not return to campus for school when we reopen. It is for this reason that we are excited about the work our staff are doing to prepare for both onsite instruction and offsite/remote instruction.

As more details about the options for parents become available, we will share them at that time. If you have any questions, please call the building principal and/or superintendent's office and they will be glad to help in any way.

In closing, we want to again say how excited we are to be able to provide our parents the option of having their child back at school or the option of utilizing our virtual access to continue school from one of our virtual labs in the community. We wish you a safe and fun filled summer!

Sincerely,

Kristi Ridgell