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October 31, 2023

Dear Decorah School Families,

We want to ensure that our communication is clear and concise regarding some important updates for the upcoming school year.

Snow Makeup Day #5: As part of our commitment to providing high-quality education, we've scheduled an additional makeup day on Friday, May 24th. Currently, our last day of school is scheduled for Monday, May 20th. If we cancel additional full days of school, they will be added to the week of May 20th, starting with Tuesday, May 21st. We're closely monitoring the situation, and if more makeup days are needed, we have extra hours equivalent to about three days of instructional time.

Virtual/Remote Instruction on Late Starts and Early Dismissals: Starting from November 27, in cases of late starts or early dismissals, we will switch to virtual/remote learning. This approach allows us to adapt to unforeseen events, like inclement weather, without disrupting the academic calendar. While it may not replicate the in-person experience entirely, it ensures continuous learning and engagement until the end of May. Each building's plan may be different. Detailed guidelines for virtual/remote learning will be provided by building administrators. The option to use virtual instruction and count for student hours of instruction is part of a new law (Iowa Senate File 391) signed by Governor Reynolds allowing up to 30 hours of virtual instruction in such circumstances.

These changes are being made with the prime objective of maximizing our in-person learning time with students, especially during weather disruptions. By implementing this approach, we can count the hours on days with late starts and early dismissals, ensuring we won't need to make these hours up at the end of the school year. As we evaluated the different options with virtual/remote learning, we consider these benefits to our plan:

- Our main teaching method remains face-to-face instruction, which we believe is most effective.
- Each level will have a customized approach, ensuring all students stay on track with their curriculum.
- Allows the district to keep in reserve 18 hours of extra instruction that may be used if we exceed five snow days.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we move forward with this plan. Together, we strive to provide a meaningful, adaptable, and enriching learning experience for each of our students.

Tim Cronin, Superintendent

The vision of the Decorah Community School District is to be a collaborative, innovative, learning-centered organization empowering students to embrace their personal strengths and create their future.