



## Update to DASD Families

Emergency Order #9 and other information for starting the school year

August 25, 2020

Scroll down or use link for [Spanish/Español](#) & [Hmong](#) (in process)

Dear DASD families,

On Friday, August 21, [Emergency Order #9](#) was issued by Public Health Madison & Dane County, requiring virtual student instruction for grades 3-12. Three weeks ago, our district made the decision to begin our school year virtually for all students K-12 (4K also chose to begin virtually). Since July 27, we have focused our attention and resources on preparing for virtual instruction, both for the Virtual Academy (Group 1) and Virtual/Hybrid/In-Person (Group 2). This has involved significant work creating and implementing professional development, and the complicated task of scheduling staff and students following registration for the Virtual Academy, which ended on August 13. We have decided to stay with our original plan, starting the school year virtually for students in grades K-12, but will begin planning for how and when to phase in K-2 students into our hybrid model.

Schedules and class assignments are being finalized this week, and families will soon be able to access this information in Skyward. We ask for your patience as our principals align staff with student needs. It may take an extra day or two to complete this process.

Again, all of our students will begin school next week in the virtual learning model based on the information [shared with families last week](#). Teachers will begin communicating with students and families this week, providing more specifics about their classes. We will plan to pivot to hybrid or in-person when appropriate. It will take several weeks for the school and staff to adequately prepare for any kind of in-person learning. This will give families lead time to plan for making adjustments to your family's child care and schedules. Those students enrolled in the Virtual Academy will remain virtual for the entire semester/trimester.

Our administrative team is reviewing the recently released Emergency Order #9. I, along with other superintendents in Dane Co., are working with public health to get clarity and better understanding of the metrics and guidance. We will begin planning for how we may bring students in grades K-2 into our schools for in-person learning. We will share more information with you in the next few weeks after we get the school year started.

**Additional information** we would like to share with you today:

- **Food Service:** Families wishing to access our District's Foodservice program may order breakfast and lunch meals each week. **Orders for next week are due by noon this Thursday, August 27.** Please use this [order form](#) to place your orders. Click [here](#) to see the menu. Foodservice information, including weekly menus, will continue to be updated on our [website](#).
- **Information from our school health office** as you prepare for school to begin, including:
  - Addressing emotional challenges amid COVID
  - At-home (virtual) learning tips
  - Preparing for if/when in-person school begins
  - Taking care of yourself as a parent
- **Materials pick up:** Just a reminder that material pick up is taking place this week. Details were shared by your school principals, and dates/times are posted on [school calendars](#).



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- **Technology Updates:**

- **Grades 3-12 device & hotspot requests:** We're currently fulfilling requests for grades 3-12 made through August 23rd. Devices will be available for pickup along with other materials.
- **Grades K-2 device & hotspot requests: These devices are taking longer than expected to prepare,** but we are working to ready as many K-2 devices as possible for pickups tomorrow (August 26). If your family requested a device and did not receive one at materials pick-up, **we will communicate with you directly** with alternate pick-up dates and times.
- **4K:** More information about 4K device pick up will be shared in the next several days.
- **Student account info:** Families with students in grades K-4 can find student login information in Skyward Family Access under Report Cards/Reports.
- **Assistance:** Families have 3 ways to request assistance with technology:
  1. Call the Help Desk: **608.842.6535**  
Someone will be answering calls between 7:00 & 3:00. After hours, please leave a message.
  2. Submit a ticket online: [bit.ly/DASDVLHelp](https://bit.ly/DASDVLHelp)  
We'll ask how to get back in touch with you.
  3. Send a question to [helpdesk@deforestschoools.org](mailto:helpdesk@deforestschoools.org)

**\*Please note that this year is an especially busy one. We will address your questions as quickly as possible.**

- **Q&A** - Our District staff continue to add to the [Return to School Q&A document](#) posted on our website. Please refer to this often for answers to frequently asked questions, and to submit a question yourself if you wish.

Sincerely,  
Eric Runez, Superintendent