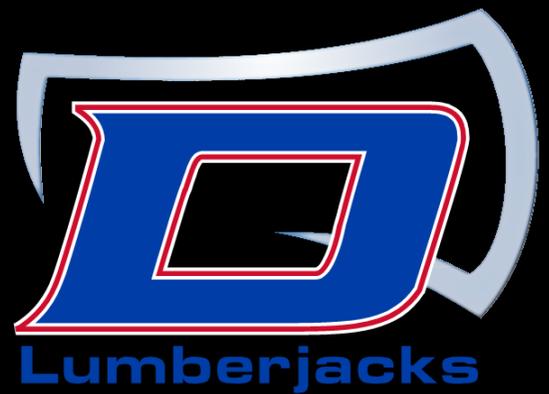


# LUMBERJACK LEDGER

FALL '22 - FAMILY UPDATES



DCS families, It's been a busy and fun summer at DCS. We can't wait to welcome back our students on September 8th for the 2022-2023 school year! Many of your children attended our amazing summer programs. I hope they had so much fun that they'll consider joining our after-school programs when they start up in October. I'm looking forward to a terrific year ahead with all of you! We have a lot to accomplish, but there's no doubt that we can do it if we all work together.

~ Denise Cook, Superintendent

## WELCOME, NEW STAFF!

We're excited to welcome our new DCS family for the start of the 2022-2023 school year:

- ~Danielle Gross, Spanish
- Tara Molino, 1st Grade
- Michelle Hallock, Reading
- Victoria Londner, 5th Grade
- Ryan Smith, PE
- Andria Luce (Crandall), HS English
- Kaeli Rutledge, Elem. Nurse
- Cherry Matthews, Elem. Cafeteria
- Kim Bailey, Elem. Aide
- Carol Zimmerman, Bus Driver

We also have some staff who have taken on different positions thanks to our federal grants:

**Melissa Truman: Coordinator of Enrichment**  
**Erin Werhli: Coordinator of Credit Opportunities!**

I know you'll all help our newest Lumberjacks feel welcome!



Construction for the 2022 project began during the last week of June and is on-going. In the elementary building, the rooms on the first floor received improvements to drainage and flooring including new vapor barriers and vinyl tile. HVAC work is also being completed in the elementary building and will continue after-school hours as the equipment is received by the contractors. In the middle/high school, the tech. room, nurse's office, main office, guidance suite and library have been gutted and new walls are going up. Projects of this size are never easy!

## DCS construction continued

Other improvements to toilet rooms, the bus garage and the outdoor site are also on-going. We are on-track for basic completion, although some finish work will extend beyond the opening of school. Finish work includes things like carpet tiles in office spaces, specialty cabinets, lighting and other finishing touches. The final work will continue after regular school hours and on weekends. The MS/HS science rooms are scheduled to be under construction this winter. For opening day, we'll have usable spaces, but some of the wow factor won't be in place for a couple of months. You'll be able to check out the improvements during our Open House in October.

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FALL '22 - FAMILY UPDATES



## IMPORTANT DATES

8/31: Pre-K Orientation 10 AM

9/1: Kindergarten Orientation 9 AM

9/6 & 9/7: Superintendent's Conference Days

9/8: 1st Day of School for Students

9/12: Board of Education Meeting 6 PM

9/30: DCS Hall of Fame Induction 5:30 PM

The annual District calendar was recently sent to all of our families through the US mail so you should receive it soon. You can also find important dates on our website's main page. This year, our early release day is every Friday. Dismissal will be at 2 PM on Fridays. This early dismissal provides time for our teachers to collaborate on a district-wide basis as they work to review student information and improve student outcomes.

Please make sure you check out our website for helpful information. Our parent page can be found here: Parents ([depositcsd.org](https://depositcsd.org))

We also have information and resources about bullying on our website: Bullying Prevention ([depositcsd.org](https://depositcsd.org))



Since the pandemic, many of us, including our students, are struggling with our mental health. We've always provided students with resources and information about mental health, and this year will be no different. We'll also be offering some informational sessions to our families and communities this year, and we hope you take the opportunity to join us for those important conversations. More information to come.

## COVID-19 INFORMATION

Although COVID-19 is not going away, we have new guidance for the upcoming school year. On the next page, I tried to provide a clear and simple explanation of the guidance we're following this fall. Basically, if your child has any symptoms of illness, keep them at home so they can rest and recover. If you'd like to request a test on campus or tests for at home, we will still provide that service. You can see the parent FAQ from NYSED here: ([depositcsd.org](https://depositcsd.org))



# Fall 2022 COVID Information

This year's NYS COVID-19 school guidance is based on recommendations and there are no NYS mandated items at this time for the 2022-23 school year.

Here are the main points:

- Students and staff **exposed** to COVID will not have to quarantine. Recommendation: People who were exposed to COVID-19 should follow CDC recommendations to wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days after the exposure and get tested.
- "Test to stay" will end—students will no longer be required to receive a COVID test if exposed to an infected person.
- Students and staff who **test positive** for COVID-19: Recommendation: Students and staff who test positive should isolate for 5 days at home. Those with symptoms may resume attending school after 5 days if they are fever-free without fever reducing medicine for 24 hours and their symptoms are improving and they wear a mask through day 10.
- Universal masking is not required at this time.
- Schools will no longer be required to offer or conduct screening testing.
- Schools are not required to test unvaccinated staff.
- Schools are not required to report daily test results to DOH.
- Schools will not be required to conduct contact tracing.
- COVID test kits continue to be available in the health offices at each school. There is no charge to families or the community for these test kits.

No Monkeypox-related requirements are planned for school operations. At this time Commissioner Bassett does not see schools as a setting where Monkeypox transmission is a risk.

In summary - If you are sick, you should stay home. You can always seek the advice of our health professionals. In the Elementary Office: Kaeli Rutledge  
In the MS/HS Office: Maria O'Connor