

DERUYTER Central School

OCTOBER 2020

ROCKET PRIDE

IMPORTANT DATES

NOVEMBER

- 3 Remote Learning Drill Day
- 16 Remote Learning Day/
Virtual Parent-Teacher
Conference Day
- 18 BOE Meeting 6pm,
DCS Elementary Gym
- 25-27 **No School - Thanksgiving
Recess**

DECEMBER

- 3 BOE Meeting 6pm,
DCS Elementary Gym
- 23-31 **No School - Holiday
Recess**

JANUARY

- 1 **No School - Holiday
Recess**
- 13 BOE Meeting 6pm,
DCS Elementary Gym
- 18 **No School - Martin Luther
King Day**

Substitute Staff Needed

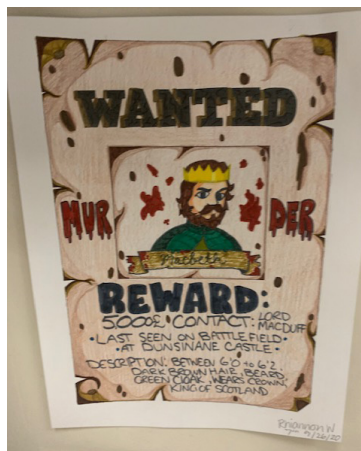
DCS is seeking dedicated individuals to serve as substitute teachers and teaching assistant staff.

Certification is appreciated but not required.

If interested, please request and fill out our employment application.

Call Mrs. O'Brien at 315-852-3400 x 7152 for more information.

Students & Staff Excited to Return to Class



While the high school is on a hybrid schedule, English teachers have tried to keep classroom activities engaging and exciting for students.

English nine has been reading *Romeo and Juliet*. The students worked on creating masks, as an introductory activity, much like what would have been worn in the feast scene in *Romeo and Juliet*.

English ten students have been reading Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. As they finished reading, they all created "Wanted" posters for a character in the play. Students were able to showcase their talents and analyze the text.

Public Speaking students, a TC3 course, has been working their way through textbooks in order to prepare for their first speech -- the informative speech. Students performed speeches on everything from Apple to Nelson Mandela.

Change in November's Schedule

November 3, 2020, was originally scheduled as a staff development day with no school for students. **Tuesday, November 3 will now be a Remote Learning "Drill" Day.** All students PK-12 will participate in remote learning on that day. This will give everyone an opportunity to experience what remote learning will look like in the event that our school has to switch to a fully remote schedule at some point this school year.

Devices and/or materials will be sent home with students that do not normally take home devices on Monday November 2nd, and **MUST** be returned on Wednesday, November 4th. A schedule for the classes that each grade level will participate in will be forthcoming.

In addition, November 16 is scheduled as a parent-teacher conference day. Students will also have some remote learning activities that day.

Food will be available for both these days, to be taken home the previous day. Please contact Mrs. Valente (PK-5) or Mr. Rafferty (6-12) with any questions.

FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT



DR. DAVID M. BROWN

Dear Community,

It is October, and we are still in session... this brings a smile to my face. I hope this is the beginning of a successful year without any interruptions. That being said, there is a still much uncertainty in our day-to-day operations. I so hoped we could bring all of the almost 400 students back this year but our High School students just didn't fit in the rooms utilizing social distancing protocols

and regulations from the New York State Health Department and Department of Education. I thought it prudent to give you some realities as we know them today:

1.) In order to be in session, students must be socially distanced by 6 feet in the classrooms as well as being twelve feet during Physical Education, Vocal/Choral and Instrumental Music classes. This is because of aerosol distribution. Please know that these decisions are not arbitrary and not made by me or the team but because we are mandated to do so.

2.) You are probably already aware, but the New York State Health Department did change from students and staff needing a doctor's note AND a negative COVID test to OR a negative test. When your child is sick with COVID like symptoms, you should work with Ms. Vadala, our school nurse, to have the necessary documents for return to the classroom. Again, none of this is arbitrary. When it changes, we will alert you. See Mrs. Vadala's messages on page 4.

3.) I want you to be aware and understand the opportunity you have in the Student Medical Services which is provided by Family Health Network. This is a free service provided by a New York State grant (no cost to participants). Insurance can be used to help with deductibles. They provide physicals, immunizations, flu vaccines, and now COVID related needs including a COVID test if needed. You need to sign up for the program in order to take advantage of this. Please contact Valerie Houghtaling at Student Medical Services for an enrollment packet; the phone number is 315-852-3400 x.7110, or you can complete the form on page 6.

4.) Due to COVID-19, we are not allowing guests in the building throughout the day and on the property when we are closed. When we use the playground during the day we disinfect the surroundings during the day and due to safety reasons, all of the campus needs to stay closed. I hope we can change this soon and will let you know when we can.

Have you seen the new Track or the new Soccer Field? They look amazing, and again we are so appreciative of the support for our Capital Project. However, did you know that the Soccer field is SOD? This means it needs to cure. If we walk or run on it there is a good chance it will get damaged and not grow properly. That is why the gates are locked. We can't wait to use our new athletic facilities but always knew it was not available until the spring of 2021 at the earliest. Stay tuned for the Grand Opening and Dedication coming next Spring or Summer.

No matter what is happening, I want this community to know that I will continue to communicate and if something is important and needed to be timely, I will deliver information via School Messenger. It is my intent not to use School Messenger unless there is a reason to get information to you immediately.

Remote or In-Person?

Making this decision, as a parent, was not easy for me, as I am sure it was not easy for you either. We asked our families to commit to a decision for the first semester. We asked for this commitment because our plan was created based on the number of students that would be attending school in person and those that selected remote.

If you are questioning your decision, and are considering having your child return to in person learning, please contact your child's principal. We are only able to honor that request if there is capacity within the building to add another student into a particular grade level. Although we would like to accommodate any students wanting to return, we are bound by social distancing guidelines. Going over capacity would require us to move to a fully hybrid schedule for all students.

We will keep a waiting list for students wishing to return to in person learning, and will allow them to return as space permits.

Reminder: All students are allowed a breakfast and lunch, free of charge, every day,

because of our grant through the Community Eligibility Program. Students are handed a bagged breakfast every morning to help streamline with COVID restrictions. Please take advantage of this so we can continue to get the grant.

LOOK FOR THESE ARTICLES IN THE NEXT ISSUE!

Student Spotlight: In each future edition we will spotlight one or two students who have gone above and beyond for our district. If you know someone that should be spotlighted, please recommend them to their principal, counselor, or myself.

Alumni Spotlight: I want to start spotlighting our Alumni who are going on and doing great things in the world, or maybe even coming back to this amazing community to do great things. If you know someone, or you are someone, we should Spotlight please reach out to me.

Board Recognition Spotlight: We are so fortunate to have hard working and dedicated board members who volunteer countless hours to govern our school district. Special thank you to Dean Hathaway, Board President, Brad Mierke, Board Vice-President, Jodi Wiesing, Board Member, Richard Metcalf, Board Member, and our newest Board Member, Dan Degear.



From the desk of the Elementary Principal, Mrs. Valente



Elementary staff and students are off to a strong start! It has been wonderful coming back together as a Rocket community. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we move through this unique year.

Students have done a tremendous job readjusting to the school routine after such a long time away, and are doing a great job following the required health and safety protocols.

Elementary school students have been able to retain many “typical” school day experiences, including attending special area classes, eating lunch in the cafeteria, and using the playground in small, socially distanced class groups.

Thank you to our great community for your continued support.

A Message to 6-12 families from Mr. Rafferty

We made it to October and like a short burst of cool air outside, it felt refreshing to welcome our students back to in-person learning. As I talk to students, many of them are feeling settled-in, and more confident each day.

Although this year looks a little different for all of our students, I am impressed with their resiliency each day. Our students have adapted to wearing masks, following new procedures, utilizing their technology problem solving skills at home, and so much more.

I would like to thank parents and caregivers for all their support, patience, and understanding during these turbulent times. Watching DCS staff, students, and families rally around each other has been nothing short of amazing and I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to work in such a passionate and selfless community.



DeRuyter School Health Office News



With the upcoming weather changes and flu and cold season, please monitor your child daily and keep him/her home if they are not feeling well. If you think your child is sick OR if they are displaying ANY of the symptoms of COVID-19, please keep them home.

- ◆ Signs/Symptoms of COVID: Fever (over 100°) or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea

In order to return to school after displaying symptoms of COVID-19, a child must:

- ◆ Have no symptoms OR temperature above 100.0° for 24 hours WITHOUT medication (ex: Tylenol, Mortin, etc) AND
- ◆ A doctor's note stating alternate diagnosis and may return to school, OR
- ◆ A negative COVID test

**If your child will be absent, please notify the nurse's office at
(315) 852-3400 Ext. 7112**

This year, DeRuyter Central School has been selected by the New York State Department of Health to participate in a state wide BMI survey. This means that we are required to report to New York State Department of Health information about our students' weight status groups.

- ◆ As part of a required school health examination, a student is weighed and his/her height is measured. These numbers are used to figure out the student's body mass index or 'BMI.' The BMI helps the doctor or nurse know if the student's weight is in a healthy range or is too high or too low. Recent changes to the New York State Education Law require that BMI and weight status group be included as part of the student's school health examination.
- ◆ Only summary information is sent to the NYS Department of Health for this survey. No names and no information about individual students are sent. However, you may choose to have your child's information excluded from this survey report.
- ◆ If you do not wish to have your child's weight status group information included as part of the Health Department's survey this year, please contact the school nurse's office to Opt-Out. You can contact the nurse's office by phone at (315) 852-3400 Ext. 7112 or email at vadala@deruytercentral.org

Does your Student Need Medical Care?

Get an enrollment packet by filling out and sending in the form on page 6.

ANNUAL NOTIFICATIONS

Notices: The school has the responsibility to provide you with the following information:

Student Accomplishments

The DeRuyter Central School District actively pursues ways to celebrate the accomplishments of our students and staff. As part of this effort, lists or pictures of students and articles citing individual students' accomplishments are published in area newspapers, and district and local newsletters. If any parents have a concern about their own child's name and/or picture appearing in such a publication, please submit your wishes in writing to Superintendent David M. Brown, DeRuyter Central School, 711 Railroad Street, DeRuyter, NY 13052.

Asbestos Management Plan

In compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), we performed asbestos reinspections of each of our school buildings for asbestos containing building materials. The inspection finds are in the asbestos management plan and are on file in the District Office.

The EPA requires the District to perform reinspections of the asbestos material every three years. During the school year, the NYS Department of Labor (NYS DOL) certified asbestos inspector performed these reinspections. A certified (NYS DOL) asbestos management planner reviewed the reinspection results and developed recommended actions we should take to safely manage the asbestos material in our buildings.

All asbestos material in the school remains in good condition and we will continue to manage them in place as recommended by EPA guidelines and the NYSDOL certified asbestos management planner.

Results of the re-inspection are on file in the District Office. Anyone is welcome to view these materials during the normal school hours (M-F 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.). The Asbestos Program manager (Asbestos Designee), School Business Manager Jim Southard, is available to answer any questions you may have about asbestos in our buildings at 852-3400 x 7502.

Right to Information

The Board of Education is required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 to notify parents of students of their right to review education records maintained by the school district which are directly related to their children. Students eighteen years of ages or older have the same right to review their own education records. Pursuant to law, the following records are available for review:

- A. Permanent Record, including:
 1. Guidance Folder – which contains standardized test scores, biographical data and elementary progress reports
 2. Academic records for grades 7 through 12
 3. Cumulative health records
 4. Attendance records
- B. Students' disciplinary records reflecting superintendent's hearings where the student has been found guilty and letters and/or records of school suspensions lasting 5 days or less.
- C. School medical records maintained at the school nurse's office, which contain students' medical history.
- D. Pupil services records, which include psychological reports maintained by school personnel.

These records are confidential and cannot be released without the prior written consent of a parent or legal guardian. The law provides limited exceptions to the prior consent requirements (for example, where certain school employees, state officials, or Federal Officials having legitimate purposes need information contained in a student's records).

The Board of Education has established a policy for maintaining the confidentiality of students' education records providing access to such records for parental review. Copies of this policy are available at the District Office.

In the event that you feel your child's education record is inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the privacy rights, you have the right to seek to have the record amended. This right includes the right to have a hearing to challenge the accuracy of the record.

If you have any questions regarding your right to review your child's educational record or the procedure for reviewing the same, please contact your school principal.


ANNUAL NOTIFICATIONS

Notices: The school has the responsibility to provide you with the following information:

Student Medical Services

Our School-Based Health Center (SBHC) is a full-service clinic in the school. SBHC staff provides physical exams, immunizations, and care for sick visits. If your child is sick at home, you can still bring him/her to the SBHC to be seen. We provide care for chronic issues like asthma, ADHD, etc., as well, and offer dental services in the fall for certain grades.

For more information or to get an enrollment packet, you can call 315-852-3400 x8, or fill out and send in the form below.



DeRuyter Central School
Please delivery this form to: DCS Student Medical Services

I am interested in enrolling my child(ren) in the Student Medical Services Program. Please send an enrollment packet home with:

Student Name _____ **Grade** _____

Parent Name _____

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Non-Discrimination Notice

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. The DeRuyter Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin in the employment and educational opportunities it offers, including vocational programs), appointment of employees, employment pay and benefits, counseling services for students, access by students to educational programs, course offerings, textbooks, and student activities.

The District official responsible for the coordination of activities relating to non-discrimination on the basis of sex is the Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Title IX Coordinator. She will provide information on complaint procedures to any student or employee who feels that his/her rights under Title IX may have been violated by the district or its officials. Her office is located in the Main (High School) Office, 711 Railroad Street, DeRuyter, NY 13052. Her telephone number is 315-852-3400 x 7152. In addition, any student or employee may make an inquiry or complaint directly to the Federal Office of Civil Rights.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973: The DeRuyter Central School District, DeRuyter, NY 13052 hereby gives notice that it does not discriminate on the basis of handicap as detailed in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The district further gives notice that it does not discriminate on the basis of handicap in admission or access to its programs and activities, including vocational education programs. No person shall be denied employment solely because of any physical, mental or medical impairment which is unrelated to the activities involved I the job for which application has been made.

Inquiries concerning this policy may be referred to Special Education Director, DeRuyter Central School, 711 Railroad Street, DeRuyter, NY 13052. The telephone number is 315-852-3400 x 7122.

Fire Inspection Update

Notice is hereby given that the annual inspection for 2020-2021 of the buildings of the DeRuyter Central School District for the fire hazards which might endanger the lives of students, teachers, and employees therein, has been completed and the report thereof is available at the District Office at 711 Railroad Street, DeRuyter, NY 13052 for the inspection of all interested persons.

NOTIFICATION TO PERSONS IN PARENTAL RELATION AND STAFF
PURSUANT TO SECTION 409-H OF THE STATE EDUCATION LAW*

Dear Parent, Guardian and School Staff:

New York State Education Law Section 409-H, effective July 1, 2001, requires all public and nonpublic elementary and secondary schools to provide written notification to all persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff regarding the potential use of pesticides periodically throughout the school year.

The DeRuyter Central School District is required to maintain a list of persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff who wish to receive 48 hour prior written notification of certain pesticide applications. The following pesticide applications are not subject to prior notification requirements:

- a school remains unoccupied for a continuous 72 hours following an application;
- anti-microbial products;
- nonvolatile rodenticides in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children;
- nonvolatile insecticidal baits in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children;
- silica gels and other nonvolatile ready to use pastes, foams, or gels in areas inaccessible to children;
- boric acid and disodium octaborate tetra hydrate;
- the application of EPA designated biopesticides;
- the application of EPA designated exempt materials under 40CFR152.25;
- the use of aerosol products with a direct spray in containers of 18 fluid ounces or less when used to protect individuals from an imminent threat from stinging and biting insects including venomous spiders, bees, wasps, and hornets.

In the event of an emergency application necessary to protect against an imminent threat to human health, a good faith effort will be made to supply written notification to those on the 48-hour prior notification list.

If you would like to receive 48-hour prior notification of pesticide applications that are scheduled to occur in your school, please complete the form below and return it to the School. For further information on these requirements the School pesticide representative is Business Manager and may be reached at DeRuyter Central School, 711 Railroad Street, DeRuyter, NY 13052; phone - (315) 852-3400 x 7502.

DeRuyter Central School
Request for Pesticide Application Notification

Name: _____

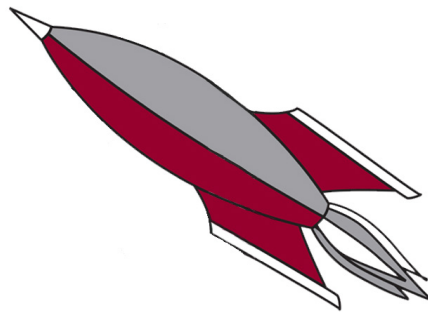
Address: _____

Day Phone: _____ **Evening Phone:** _____

*Written notification must be provided to all persons in parental relation and staff at the following intervals throughout the school year; at the beginning of the school year; within two school days of the end of winter recess; within two school days of the end of spring recess; and within ten days of the end of the school year.

DeRuyter Central School
711 Railroad Street
DeRuyter, NY 13052

DeRuyter Central School
Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
DeRuyter, NY 13052



DCS = DISTRICT COMMITTED TO SUCCESS

Mission Statement: The DeRuyter Central School District, in partnership with parents and the community, will educate and empower all students to embrace a passion for learning while developing into respectful, productive members of society.

Vision Statement: The DeRuyter Central School District will be committed to providing a safe, healthy and supportive environment where all members of the learning community will reach high expectations as they achieve confidence in their talents and pursue personal success in a complex, interconnected, dynamic world.



This is a friendly reminder that DeRuyter Central School District is Tobacco Free. School Policy prohibits the use of tobacco products. Everywhere. By Everyone. At all times. Thank you for your cooperation.