



DeRuyter Central School

Home of the Rockets

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January 13, 2021

Dear Families,

Happy New Year! We hope each of you had a restful and meaningful time with your family during the winter break. Hybrid learning is far from ideal for our high school students, educators, and parents/guardians. It has created academic, social, and emotional hardships for many students. Hybrid instruction has also proven challenging for school staff and parents/guardians as we try to support our learners during these unconventional times.

Based on recent population shifts and commitments to remote instruction for the second semester, we are elated to share that all 9-12 students will soon return for daily, in-person instruction. Ninth and eleventh grade high school students will begin attending every day on Monday, January 25, 2021. Tenth and twelfth grade students will join ninth and eleventh grade students for in-person, daily instruction starting February 1, 2021. Staggering this transition will reduce student stress and allow for additional flexibility.

With more students set to attend each day, it is critical that parents/guardians closely monitor the health of their child(ren). In addition, students must continue following the school's social distancing guidelines and adhere to the recently updated masking protocols. These steps will help limit the transmission of COVID-19, allowing for the continuation of in-person instruction at DCS. Students refusing to comply with masking and/or social distancing protocols will face disciplinary action.

The thought of having high school students return Monday through Friday sparks feelings of relief and excitement. We are hopeful the return to fully in-person instruction will provide 9-12 students, staff, and parents/guardians with the normalcy that has been lacking since last March. Thank you for your support and if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Stephen Rafferty

6-12 Principal/Director of Special Education

DeRuyter Central School – District Committed to Success

Board of Education: Dean Hathaway, *President*; Bradley Mierke, *Vice President*; Members – Daniel Degear, Richard Metcalf, Jodi Wiesing