

REMINDER

Virtual Curriculum/Academic Committee Meeting | Monday, January 18 | 11 a.m.

Academic Committee Recap

During the November Curriculum/Academic Committee Meeting, Superintendent Vitti presented the preliminary iReady results in an effort to continue to set a baseline due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He also presented a budget amendment for 2021. The budget amendment included additional revenue to fund increased salaries for our teachers, increase funding to purchase additional student

laptops and Wi-Fi student connectivity. The budget fully funds all school positions and does not include position reductions, salary reductions or furloughs. In addition, the 21-22 academic calendar was reviewed and will move to the December Board Meeting for approval, the calendar includes the recommendation to recognize the Muslim Holiday, Eid al-Fitr.

District-wide Effort to Improve Literacy: Orton Gillingham Intervention

As a district, we are committed to providing the resources and supports to ensure all students are reading at grade level. We are excited to have launched this year's district-wide Orton Gillingham reading intervention that is expected to serve 8,000 students!

Orton Gillingham intervention focuses on small group multisensory reading intervention that transforms struggling readers into skilled learners with an effective, fun, multisensory approach. School leaders used i-Ready Diagnostic data to identify students in Kindergarten to 9th grade who are reading two or more years below grade level and instruction has begun! Our educators are excited to implement this intervention. Any student can benefit from the Orton Gillingham approach, but for the student who struggles to learn how to read, it can be the difference between success and failure.

Online Learning Platforms for Students

This year, the District adopted Schoology as its new learning management system. With Schoology, students have a place where they can turn in assignments to teachers, get feedback, and see what is upcoming in their class. For classes that use other online learning platforms, Schoology can act as a central hub where students stop in to see what they need to do and be linked to their next activity.

The District is continuing to use Microsoft Teams for live video instruction and conferencing. Students, teachers and families can interact using Teams with video calls, video conferences, and chats. Teams can also provide a shared space for students to take notes, complete assignments, and collaborate on work.

For back-to-school, the District engaged teachers in many professional development sessions on Schoology, Teams, and the District's other new online platforms. The District also gave families the opportunity to learn about its online learning tools through virtual parent academies in the Fall. Families can receive support and tips using Schoology and other platforms by going to www.detroitk12.org/page/10829.

RISE AND SHINE

Meet us Online!



Upcoming Board Meetings Schedule

DPSCD Board Meetings held in September will be hosted online by Zoom or telephone. For updated meeting info, please visit the Board Meeting calendar at detroitk12.org/board. An Executive Order is in place that doesn't allow for more than 10 people at a planned event. A board meeting is a planned event. We are following all applicable Executive Orders.

Regular Board Meeting (Virtual)

Tuesday, December 8, 5:30 p.m.

Finance Committee Meeting (Virtual)

Friday, December 11, 9 a.m.

Curriculum/Academic Committee Meeting (Virtual)

Monday, December 14, 11 a.m.

Policy Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting (Virtual)

Tuesday, December 15, 9 a.m.

Curriculum Nights Empowers Families for Third Year



For the third consecutive year, DPSCD hosted Curriculum Night events this fall to welcome families into their local school to learn about their students' curriculum and meet the teachers, school administration and support staff who work diligently to keep their schools running smoothly. Although Curriculum Nights were hosted virtually this year, families were still able to celebrate the joy of learning online!

Dixon Educational Learning Academy is just one of our many schools that consistently went over and beyond to provide engaging online sessions for families as pictured in the agenda here.

Academic Calendar

To view the complete 2020-2021 Academic Calendar, visit detroitk12.org.

MON TUE WED THU FRI

DECEMBER 2020

	1	2	3	4	
7	8	9	10	11	
14	15	16	17	18	
21	22	23	24	H	
28	29	30	31		

MON TUE WED THU FRI

JANUARY 2021

					H
4	5	6	7	8	
11	12	13	14	15	
H	19	20	21	22	
25	26	27	28	29	

MON TUE WED THU FRI

FEBRUARY 2021

1	Q2	Q3	4	5
8	RC	CD	11	12
H	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26

S Schools Closed-No Students
H Public Holiday

S Semester/Quarter Boundary
RC Report Card Day

CD Membership Count Days

Take Part in DPSCD's Computer Science Education Week



CS ED WEEK 20
DECEMBER 7-13
#CSFORSOCIALJUSTICE

Computer Science Education Week (CSEdWeek) is an annual call to action to inspire K-12 students to learn computer science, advocate for equity in computer science education, and celebrate the contributions of students, teachers, and partners to the field. This year's theme is #CSforSocialJustice.

We have a week of activities planned to help our students celebrate computer science in their classroom and with the community. We are especially grateful to DAPCEP, Quicken Loans, Michigan Science Center, Google, Microsoft, and Code.org for their help in bringing engaging and relevant content to our students. Please check out the schedule below for district-wide, virtual computer science events and be sure to ask your child what they learned during Computer Science Education Week!

DATE	ACTIVITY	GRADE LEVELS
MONDAY DEC. 7	Women of Xbox: Girls in Gaming with Cierra McDonald and Karisma Williams, Developers, Xbox	3rd - 12th grade district-wide
TUESDAY DEC. 8	Deaf Kids Launch w/Johanna Lucht, NASA's 1st Deaf Engineer	3rd - 12th grade district-wide
WEDNESDAY DEC. 9	Latin Girls in Space w/Serena M. Aunon-Chancellor, NASA Astronaut	3rd - 12th grade district-wide
THURSDAY DEC. 10	Black Girls in Animation w/Sonya Carey, Disney 3D Animator	3rd - 12th grade district-wide
FRIDAY DEC. 11	Guinness World Records Event MANCODE (black and brown boys) w/NBA athletes Dwyane Wade and Chris Paul	District-Wide 3rd - 12th grade district-wide

ELEMENTARY – MIDDLE SCHOOL

Whiz Kid Challenge Encourages Reading Fluency



High Frequency Words (HFW) are critical to building reading proficiency with our K-2 learners. DPSCD is proud to announce a District-wide initiative called the “Whiz Kid Challenge.” The program teaches students to memorize HFW so that they can recognize them immediately and read them. This fun learning competition is open to all K-2 students throughout the District and celebrates students for their achievements with High Frequency Word mastery. To reward students at home, we suggest cooking your child’s favorite meal, game night, dancing to their favorite song or having a special dessert after dinner.

- Making “word walls” at home
- Making/using flash cards
- Interactive activities or games like sight word bingo (hands-on)
- Online games - Try sites like ABCMouse.com
- HFW writing with sand on a tray, playdough, dry erase, etc.

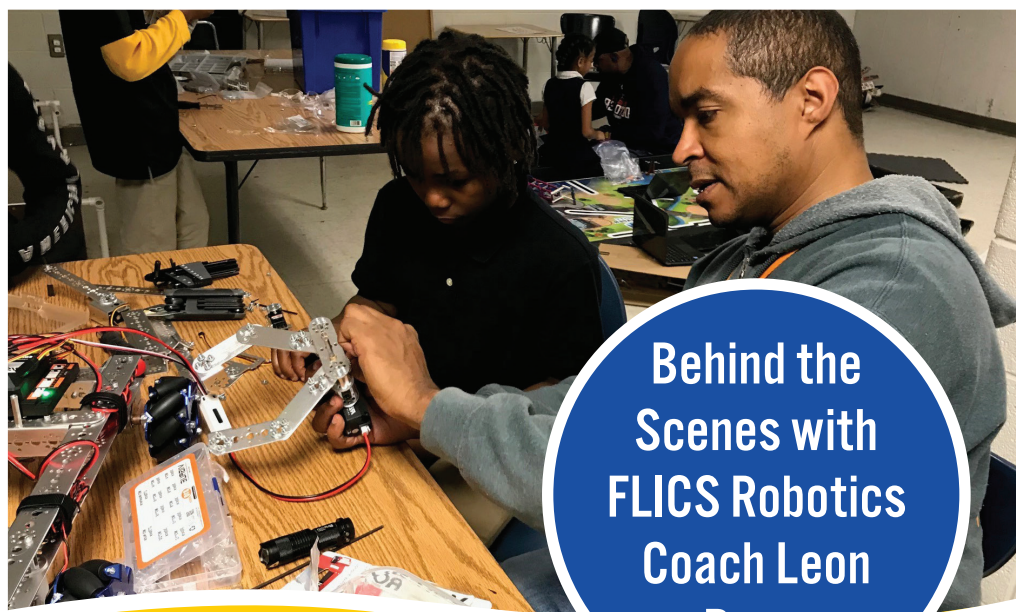


- Reading text with HFW and highlighting the words
- I-Spy HFW at home on the television or in the community
- i-Ready practice

4th Grade Students Participate in DTE Think Energy Program



Every 4th Grade student in the district was provided with an opportunity to engage in hands-on science enrichment experiences to support their understanding of energy conservation, while potentially SAVING MONEY for their families! In preparation for the upcoming Energy unit, Grade 4 students experienced e-learning games & activities, demonstrations, and presentations focused on conserving energy and received a DTE Home Energy Saving Kit to implement at home. These kits included things like LED lightbulbs & nightlights, aerators, insulation, and a shower timer. Don’t forget to ask your 4th grade student about conserving energy today!



Behind the Scenes with FLICS Robotics Coach Leon Pryor

The Office of STEM Enrichment is very excited to have our STEM programs underway for the 2020-2021 academic year! Throughout the year, we will be spotlighting teams, students, and coaches for our Academic Games, Chess, and Robotics programs. This month’s spotlight is Leon Pryor, the F.L.I.C.S. Robotics Coach and District volunteer.

Q: Are robotics competitions competitive?

Pryor: The competition is incredibly competitive. The level of innovation and fabrication that you see on display is downright incredible. Even as an engineer with decades of experience, I am often surprised by the innovative and elegant solutions that I see at competitions.

Q: How has Covid-19 changed the dynamics of coaching?

Pryor: COVID-19 makes everything 10 times more difficult in terms of participating in robotics. Ultimately, robotics requires children to physically build a device. Something that is hard to do when most of our students are engaged in remote learning. It’s a challenge, but one we have embraced; because ultimately, FIRST robotics is about using creativity and intellect to solve problems.

Q: What goals has your team set for the 2020-2021 school year?

Pryor: We want to build on our success from last year. We finished 12th out of 72 schools, but this year we are setting our sights on qualifying for worlds. We know what it takes to compete at that level, and we plan to compete aggressively.

Q: What else would you like everyone to know about robotics, coaching, and our students?

Pryor: My students have shown great intelligence, creativity, and tenacity when it comes to robotics. My job as a coach is to create an environment where they have the tools and guidance to maximize those traits. We are building tomorrow’s engineers and scientists. The work we do with them today is setting them on the path for their journeys in life.

Reminder: Q2 Instructional Materials

K-8 Families,

By now you should have received your instructional materials for Quarter 2. If you have not picked up your materials, please contact your school administrator.

Remember, as the first module for ELA wraps up mid-December, be sure to hang on to your trade books and novels in Grades 3-8, as they will be collected by your school. Lookout for next steps related to this from your school administrator.



HIGH SCHOOL

DPSCD Students Excel in Detroit Urban Debate League Tournament



Debate teams from DPSCD won top honors during the fall Detroit Urban Debate League (DUDL) tournament. The tournament pitted teams of students against other DPSCD schools, as well as charter and private schools from across the region. Teams faced off in complex policy debates that DUDL director John Lawson called “an hour and a half of full-contact social studies.” Competing in an online format, Cody High School won first place in the varsity division, while Cass Tech took home first in the junior varsity division. More than a dozen students from Cody, Cass, DSA, and Marygrove won awards. DPSCD schools dominated the novice division; winning nine out of the top 10 places, three of which went to Marygrove students in the school’s first tournament ever.

The next DUDL tournament will be held December 11-12, followed by events in January and February, and the national finals qualifying tournament in March.

Adapting to Online Learning: Tips for High School Students



2020 is certainly turning out to be one unpredictable year! A year full of ups and downs and one that has been full of realities that may have forced high school students into a space of the unknown. One of the trickiest spaces is the remote classroom. There are tons of tips out there to support success in this area. DPSCD has compiled some of the best tips we have found to help high schoolers continue the transition and avoid a bumpy road.

TOP SEVEN TIPS FOR ONLINE LEARNING:

1. **Get a good night’s rest** and set your clock to wake up at the same time each day. Establishing a

routine is going to be your best bet for a successful remote learning experience.

2. If possible, **carve out a dedicated workspace**. This might be difficult for some, but if you can find a clear, comfortable space to work in during the day, CLAIM IT!
3. **Stay Organized!** Make a “to-do” list. Take a moment to review all the work your teachers have assigned you for the week.
4. **Ask questions.** If you don’t know something or you need support, reach out to the teacher and ask questions. If your teacher is not available, ask a classmate.
5. **Take a break.** Don’t spend the entire day in front of the screen. Plan food breaks and simple mental health breaks. Give yourself time to eat, move your body and have fun.
6. **Set-up a study group** with your friends online. Set-up some time on Teams or your own virtual call space with your friends and classmates.
7. **Be positive!** Everyone has setbacks, but you must keep a growth mindset. This too shall pass, and we will be back to normal again! Soon!

Visit these sites for more information to support successful remote learning:

- <https://sharemylesson.com/blog/distance-learning-tips>
- <https://www.wral.com/back-to-school-11-virtual-learning-tips-for-high-school-students/19235278/>
- <https://www.connectionsacademy.com/support/resources/article/8-top-tips-for-student-success-in-online-school>

DPSCD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, transgender identity, disability, age, religion, height, weight, citizenship, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected category, in its educational programs and activities, including employment and admissions. Questions? Concerns? Contact the Civil Rights Coordinator at (313) 240-4377 or dpscd.compliance@detroitk12.org or 3011 West Grand Boulevard, 14th Floor, Detroit MI 48202.

HOMESCHOOL HOTLINE

1.833.466.3978

DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
COMMUNITY DISTRICT

The DPSCD Board of Education Curriculum/Academic Committee Members

Angelique Peterson-Mayberry
Committee Chair

Dr. Deborah Hunter-Harvill
Committee Member

Georgia Lemmons
Committee Member

Contact us: (313) 873-3111

The Office of Curriculum and Instruction

Beth Gonzalez
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

Contact us: (313) 873-8533

dpscd.curriculum@detroitk12.org



Read about exciting news and stories by connecting with us on social media:

@detroitk12



For more information about DPSCD please visit

Detroitk12.org