



School Opening Information

Bulletin #6 – August 26, 2021

As Dinwiddie County Public Schools plans for the start of the 2021-2022 school year, we are committed to keeping our families, staff, students, and community members informed.

Dinwiddie County Public Schools will provide in-person instruction in all grades five days per week beginning with the first day of school on Tuesday, September 7, 2021. A virtual learning option as an alternative for those students who have continued medical needs and/or demonstrated they could thrive academically via the online learning model is being offered to those students that have been accepted in the Dinwiddie Virtual Academy.

We will continue to provide weekly updates to staff relative to school opening each Thursday by email. **This will be updated to include any new information (in red) since the previous Bulletin.**

DIVISION CONTACT INFORMATION

Central Office

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Phone: 804-469-4190
Website: www.dinwiddie.k12.va.us

Transportation Department

Office Hours: 6:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Phone: 804-469-4680
Website: dinwiddie.k12.va.us/departments/transportation/

BUILDING CONTACT INFORMATION

Dinwiddie High School

Principal: Robbie Garnes
School Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Phone: 804-469-4280
Website: <https://hs.dinwiddie.k12.va.us/>

Southside Elementary School

Principal: Sheri Culbreath
School Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Phone: 804-469-4480
Website: <https://ses.dinwiddie.k12.va.us/>

Dinwiddie Middle School

Principal: Jeffrey Walters
School Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Phone: 804-469-5430
Website: <https://ms.dinwiddie.k12.va.us/>

Sunnyside Elementary School

Principal: Brenton Byrd
School Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Phone: 804-478-2313
Website: <https://sun.dinwiddie.k12.va.us/>

Dinwiddie Elementary School

Principal: Davis Roberts
School Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Phone: 804-469-4580
Website: <https://des.dinwiddie.k12.va.us/>

Sutherland Elementary School

Principal: Dr. Amanda Clay
School Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Phone: 804-732-4168
Website: <https://sut.dinwiddie.k12.va.us/>

Midway Elementary School

Principal: Randall Johnson
School Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Phone: 804-265-4205
Website: <https://mes.dinwiddie.k12.va.us/>

SCHEDULES

All schools will provide in-person instruction in all grades five days per week on the regular school schedule.

Dinwiddie County Public Schools 2021-2022 School Calendar

https://www.dinwiddie.k12.va.us/app/uploads/2021/05/2021-2022_04-13-21-Board-approved.pdf

Dinwiddie High School Schedule

Start Time: 7:40 a.m. (tardy bell)

End Time: 2:25 p.m.

Dinwiddie Middle School Schedule

Start Time: 7:35 a.m. (tardy bell)

End Time: 2:25 p.m.

All Elementary Schools Schedule

Start Time: 8:30 a.m.

End Time: 3:30 p.m.

Dinwiddie Virtual Academy

In response to the changes in the health and community level transmission data, DCPS is making modifications to the delivery of virtual instruction. Mr. Moss, along with the Academic Services team, have been vetting the best options to provide our students with quality virtual instruction. To that end, students are being placed on a waiting list for consideration of acceptance into the Dinwiddie Virtual Academy. The acceptance criteria will still be applied that includes:

- Access to high-speed internet;
- Documented medical need (student or household family member);
- Performance over the last two years (virtual and in-person);
- Availability of in-home family support;
- Social-emotional needs of the student; and
- Virtual attendance for 2020-2021 school year.

Placement on the waiting list does not guarantee acceptance into the program.

Updates/Reminders:

Cohort #1 (students with a start date for the week of August 23): These are students in grades K-12 that were previously accepted and enrolled. Acceptance into this cohort is now closed.

Cohort #2 (students with a start date for the week of August 30): These are newly enrolled students in grades 6-12 that were previously on the waiting list. Students received an email today, August 19, with more information. The last date to be considered for Cohort #2 is Tuesday, August 24. Please contact Mr. Chuck Moss at 804-469-4190 or cmoss@dcpsnet.org for more information.

Cohort #3 (students with a start date of Tuesday, September 7): Parents of students in Cohort #3, please check your email for an important letter from Mr. Chuck Moss that was sent to you today, August 26, 2021, at 11:30 a.m.

Please note that DCPS will not be distributing MiFis; therefore, your location must have its own, consistent internet signal.

SUPPLIES

K-5 school supply lists are posted on each school's website under the Family Resources tab. To help students have a successful start to the year, basic school supplies are being provided to students entering preschool and kindergarten through a partnership between Dinwiddie County Public Schools and our local faith-based community. The DMS supply list can be found on the DMS website under the Information tab at <https://ms.dinwiddie.k12.va.us/information/> . Supply lists for DHS will be provided by each teacher. The basic supplies needed are: pens, pencils, paper, and notebooks.

HEALTH & SAFETY MEASURES

We will continue to monitor the latest information and guidance being provided from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Virginia Department of Health (VDH), and Virginia Department of Education (VDOE).

Senate Bill 1303 - Requires each school board to offer in-person instruction to each student enrolled in the local school division in a public elementary and secondary school for at least the minimum number of required instructional hours and to each student enrolled in the local school division in a public school-based early childhood care and education program for the entirety of the instructional time provided pursuant to such program. The bill contains certain exceptions to the abovementioned requirement. The bill requires each school board to provide such in-person instruction in a manner in which it adheres, to the maximum extent practicable, to any currently applicable mitigation strategies for early childhood care and education programs and elementary and secondary schools to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 that have been provided by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The bill requires the Department of Education to establish benchmarks for successful virtual learning and guidelines for providing interventions to students who fail to meet such benchmarks and for transitioning such students back to in-person instruction. The bill also requires all teachers and school staff to be offered access to receive an approved COVID-19 vaccination through their relevant local health district. The bill has an expiration date of August 1, 2022.

In anticipation of having students and staff back in our school buildings, DCPS remains committed to implement a variety of health and safety measures. The School Board approved the "Health & Safety Measures" on August 10, 2021. This document has been posted on the DCPS website in the Return to Learn section under the Parents tab.

To view the "Health & Safety Measures" plan, click on the link below.

<https://www.dinwiddie.k12.va.us/return-to-learn/health-safety-measures/>

This plan will be reviewed at each School Board meeting and work session. It will be updated as needed based on the health and community level transmission data.

CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

Masks and PPE

CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. The federal mask mandate for public transportation remains in effect and does apply to school buses. All students and staff will be required to wear masks while on the bus. Normal capacity limits on buses will be in place. DCPS students, staff, and visitors will be required to wear masks indoors and on buses. **The School Board approved**

mask accommodation request forms. Links to each form are listed below. They are also available at each school, the Central Office, and on the DCPS website under the Health & Safety Measures. Forms should be returned to Michelle Powell, Coordinator of Student Services, via email at cpowell@dcpsnet.org or via fax to 804-469-4197. Only such requests will be accepted using the official DCPS form.

- [Medical Mask Accommodation Request Form](#)
- [Religious Mask Accommodation Request Form](#)

*We are asking all parents to help us keep our Back to School Open House Events as safe as possible for everyone. Principals have been sending out robo calls with school specific information and safety measures. All visitors will be required to wear a mask while inside the building. Masks will be available at the entrance.

Covid-19 Vaccinations

The Covid-19 vaccine is recommended for any individual over the age of 12. DCPS is not requiring this vaccine for school attendance. We will continue to work with the Crater Department of Health to make the vaccine accessible to our students and staff. **The Crater VDH will be offering Covid-19 vaccines at Dinwiddie Middle and Dinwiddie High Schools during the month of September. Registration information and consent forms will be available soon.**

MEAL SERVICES

All schools within the division will be participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) as implemented under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. All students in grades PK-12 will be provided free breakfast and lunch daily. Families will not have to complete meal applications this year.

Cafeteria

Based on the current positivity rate and transmission data, meals will be served in classrooms and/or staggered in the cafeteria to limit the mixing of student groups. School administration will communicate individual building plans. Visitors will not be allowed at this time for breakfast or lunch.

Virtual Student Meal Service

Students participating in the Dinwiddie Virtual Academy are eligible for meals. Meals can be picked up each Wednesday that school is in session from 4-6 p.m. at the Dinwiddie Elementary School cafeteria loading dock. Five breakfast meals and five lunch meals will be provided at the pick up. **The first pick up will be on Wednesday, September 8, 2021.**

TECHNOLOGY ACCESS

In the event that all students will need to engage in remote or online learning during the school year, the district will provide chromebooks for students as needed. Students in grades PK-8 will utilize devices at school during the school year. High school students will be issued chromebooks during the first week of school. Dinwiddie Virtual Academy students will be issued chromebooks prior to start of classes.

ATHLETICS & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Athletics and extracurricular activities (including field trips) will be offered for students without restrictions. DCPS will follow the guidelines and recommendations set forth by the Virginia High School League (VHSL). For questions about athletics, please contact Mr. Bradley Atkins, Director of Student Activities at Dinwiddie High School at batkins@dcpsnet.org or 804-469-4280

TRANSPORTATION

Bus Routes

Bus routes for the 2021-2022 school year will be published on the DCPS website no later than Wednesday, September 1, 2021. For questions about bus routes, please contact 804-469-4680. Website: <https://www.dinwiddie.k12.va.us/parents/bus-routes/>

Bus Pass Information

Bus passes may be available on a limited basis for extenuating circumstances or childcare situations pending bus capacity. Effective for the 2021-2022 school year, a “Bus Pass Request Form” must be completed and submitted to your child’s school. **All bus requests must be submitted using the DCPS official form. This form will be available at each school and on the Transportation Department website by September 1 at <https://www.dinwiddie.k12.va.us/departments/transportation/>.**

Dinwiddie Drive

DCPS will be launching the “*Versatrans My Stop*” app this year for all schools. This app will provide parents and students with live bus GPS information as well as the estimated time of arrival to the student’s specific bus stop. User account information will be distributed with students’ back to school information at each school. The *Versatrans My Stop* app is available for Android and iPhone devices.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Dr. Weston, Superintendent, continues to hold community conversations to pose questions and/or provide feedback relative to school opening. These will take place as follows:

September 1 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Back2School Bash Audience: All DCPS families
Chat with the Superintendent and School Board members at their booth.

IMMUNIZATIONS REMINDER

This a reminder that students must have their required vaccines in order to attend school. For more information, contact your child’s health care provider to schedule an appointment or the Dinwiddie Health Department at 804-469-3771.

The newest vaccine requirements include:

- Upcoming seventh graders will be required to have a Tdap vaccine as well as a meningococcal conjugate vaccine prior to entry for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Upcoming twelfth graders will be required to have a meningococcal conjugate vaccine prior to entry for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Upcoming kindergarten students will be required to have two doses of hepatitis A vaccine prior to entry for the 2021-2022

UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 27** iDCPS Conference for all DCPS
Dinwiddie Middle School / Football Stadium
- August 30** Specialty Day Meetings for staff
- August 31** Dinwiddie Middle School & Dinwiddie High School
Meet the Teacher
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- August 31** Pathways Learning Center Meet the Teacher
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- September 1** Back2School Bash
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Historic Southside High School
- September 2** Elementary Meet the Teacher (All Elementary Schools)
3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- September 3** Early Release for All Staff
- September 6** Labor Day Holiday
- September 7** First Day of School 2021-2022 for grades K-12
- September 13** First Day of School for Early Childhood Special Education, Bright Stars, and Head Start