

Dear Denver School of the Arts Community,

I hope all of you are staying healthy and supporting one another during this difficult and unprecedented time. I'd like to thank everyone for their support and patience as we have worked through closing down our Denver schools in an effort to decrease the spread of COVID-19. Please know that the DSA staff and I are thinking about you and your children every day. We are broken-hearted about all of the events and milestones that are being postponed and canceled, along with the in-person learning opportunities that your child is missing.

On April 7 we will begin two weeks, and perhaps longer, of online/remote learning. This is new to our teachers and students and we expect "growing pains" as we adjust to this new normal. Our teachers have worked diligently over the last several weeks to prepare for this monumental shift and I am confident that they will rise to this challenge that they have been presented. They, along with the administrative and support staff, will work diligently to remain connected to all of you through email and phone calls, as well as the learning platforms that the teachers will be using (Schoology, Google Classroom, etc.).

On behalf of the entire Denver School of the Arts staff, I would like to thank you in advance for your understanding and flexibility. It is my firm belief that working as a team, we will accomplish our goal of continuing student learning, while supporting the whole child navigate these uncharted waters. We will get through this together and will be better because of it.

Sincerely,

Anthony McWright, Principal

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## **Denver School of the Arts Remote Learning Purpose Statement**

Our mission during these extraordinary times is geared toward generating a good faith effort to provide the best possible educational opportunities and support for all of our students while they embark upon remote learning. We hope to achieve engaging and meaningful academic and arts experiences by:

- Providing a sound schedule of consistency and support for students as we continue the learning process.
- Provide students and families with social and emotional resources to help us all through these difficult situations.
- Intentionally planning lessons that allow students to continue their learning that works with them both in our remote school setting and in their home life.

## **DSA Remote Learning - Getting Started**

- Remote learning for students begins on Tuesday, April 7.
- Beginning on April 6, each teacher will have a document linked on the front page of DSA's website that includes their remote class specifics (links for access, assignments, live & recorded class schedules, office hours, for example). Students and families are encouraged to use this "main page" to locate each teacher's link. This page will be added to the DSA home page
- Prior to April 7, all teachers are expected to reach out to families to connect with their students and communicate where students will access the online content for that class (which is also included on the DSA Remote Learning page). Teachers have been asked to include specifics about office hours and ways to contact them, as well.

- Any live classes that students are asked to attend will be following a shortened version of DSA's building schedule. Click on these links to see the schedules: [Grades 6 & 7](#) and [Grades 8-12](#)
- Our goal is for learning to be authentic and allow each teacher the option to choose lessons that support the learners in their classrooms and that (ideally) continue where instruction left off on March 13.
- The first week (April 7-April 10), begins on Tuesday. For this week only, our grades 8-12 schedule will begin on a Black day and will proceed as follows:  
 Tuesday, April 7 - Black Day Schedule  
 Wednesday, April, 8 - White Day Schedule  
 Thursday, April 9 - Black Day Schedule  
 Friday, April 10 - White Day Schedule  
 \*Beginning the week of April 13, we will resume the regular schedule (Black, White, Black, White) with teacher office hours on Friday.

## DSA Remote Learning - What to Expect

- During our first week, we will be focusing on engagement, connections, and supporting students where they are. We want to spend the first week ensuring that all of our students are logging in, have any technical issues corrected, and that they have a chance to learn about what to expect from their new, virtual classrooms.
- Teachers will offer office hours at least once a week per our daily schedule. Teachers will connect with students via Schoology Conference, Google Hangouts, or Google Meet to have face time with students.
- Students will have about 30 minutes a day of work per class for a total of about 4 hours of work a day. Please note this is just an average and sometimes it may be more and sometimes it may be less.
- Student work may be self-paced, or a hybrid of online and self-paced activities with weekly assignments in each class to work and learn through. At any time a question may arise, we encourage students to reach out directly to their teachers for assistance.

***We understand that learning will not be entirely online and may include reading, exercising, drawing, playing, construction, writing, or other virtual school day tasks that can be documented through photos, videos, reports, chats, quizzes, etc. and turned in or shared remotely.***

- We do not assume that remote learning will look like our day-to-day brick and mortar instruction. For that reason, we have given our teachers the flexibility to craft their classroom to fit the needs of their students while ensuring educational expectations of remote learning are met. We are still awaiting guidance from the Colorado Department of Education and Denver Public Schools central office related to grades, but students need to be as engaged and completing assigned work as much as possible.

## Student Expectations

- All students need a working computer, charger, and internet access. If you do not have one, or having difficulty, please reach out to [Michael\\_Kimble@dpsk12.org](mailto:Michael_Kimble@dpsk12.org) for tech support.
- Beginning on April 7 and until further indicated, students will be expected to fully participate in remote learning.
- Students should check their school email or teacher pages at least once a day beginning Monday, April 6.

## How Parents Can Support

- Please work to provide your child with quiet space and dedicated time to do their work.
- If your child has any questions, have them reach out to their teachers or members of the staff.
- Feel free to check out the DSA Remote Learning document on DSA's webpage to see expectations for each of your child's classes.

## Contact Information

Contact Information for Denver School of the Arts **Administrative, Counseling, Mental Health, and Front Office Teams** if you need assistance or have concerns beyond instructional matters.

Administrative appointments will be Monday-Friday, between 8:00am and 3:00pm.

<b>Principal: Anthony McWright</b> Anthony_McWright@dpsk12.org 720-424-1700	<b>Assistant Principal: Aspen Burkett</b> Aspen_Burkett@dpsk12.org 719-733-3188	<b>Assistant Principal: Miranda Odom</b> Miranda_Odom@dpsk12.org
<b>Assistant Principal: Anna Conley</b> Anna_Conley@dpsk12.org 719-733-3192	<b>Family and Community Liaison: Ben Espinoza</b> Benjamin_Espinosa@dpsk12.org	<b>Executive Director DSA Friends Foundation: Susan Knill</b> Susan@DSAFriends.org
<b>To request digital appointments for our Counselors or Mental Health Staff, please contact them directly.</b>	<b>Grades 10-12 Counselors:</b> <b>Gina Subudhi</b> Gina_Subudhi@dpsk12.org <b>Kristen Jaramillo</b> Kristen_Jaramillo@dpsk12.org	<b>Grades 6-9 Counselor: Gary Lubell</b> Gary_Lubell@dpsk12.org
<b>School Psychologist: Ari Umoja</b> Ari_Umoja@dpsk12.org	<b>School Social Worker/IEPs/504s: Christa Lyons</b> Christa_Lyons@dpsk12.org	<b>School Nurse: Amy Robinson</b> Amy_Robinson@dpsk12.org
<b>Speech Language Pathologist: Kathryn Billings</b> Kathryn_Billings@dpsk12.org		
<b>Front Office Staff:</b> <b>Remote Hours from 7:30 to 3:30 daily</b>	<b>Main Office Secretary: Dorothy Hurst</b> Dorothy_Hurst@dpsk12.org	<b>Payroll, Budget: Jaymie Montoya</b> Jaymie_Montoya@dpsk12.org
<b>Guidance Office: Ruben Coral</b> Ruben_Coral@dpsk12.org	<b>Guest Artists: Tracy Reynolds</b> Tracy_Reynolds@dpsk12.org	

## Support Information

**If you have concerns about the well-being of yourself or others:**

**Students:** For any concerns you may have about yourself or a friend, reach out to:

When risk is imminent, please call **911**.

Anonymously report the situation to Safe2Tell by phone or text at **1-877-542-7233**, via **safe2tell.org**, or using the **Safe2Tell App**.

Colorado Crisis Services at **1-844-493-8255** or Text **TALK** to **38255**

**Parents/Guardians:** If you become aware that your student is experiencing suicidal thoughts or making threatening statements:

When risk is imminent, please call **911**.

Contact DPD Non-emergency line at **720-913-2000** to request a welfare check and/or to report the threat/concern.

Anonymously report the situation to Safe2Tell by phone or text at **1-877-542-7233**, via **safe2tell.org**, or using the **Safe2Tell App**.

For daily updates please review [Denver Public Schools](#) homepage.

**"Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less." Marie Curie**