Friday, July 31, 2020

Hello Deer Creek families,

With changes to the Jeffco Restart Plan shifting to a choice for families of Remote-Only or Hybrid models, I hope the information contained in this message will assist you in making your decision for your student’s choice for the beginning of the school year. We continue to modify details according to changing health recommendations and requirements, but we can share the following information to help you make your choice.

Remote Learning
We will continue with a mix of daily synchronous learning (scheduled for a specific time) and asynchronous learning (can be completed outside of class time). There will also be regularly scheduled “live” Zoom sessions in each class for help, review, discussion, and interaction. Video conference sessions will also be used to access counseling and special education supports. You may hear from other schools that their remote students will be taking classes through Jeffco Virtual Academy (JVA). Since the resources and sequencing of learning through JVA would not align with our hybrid instruction, Deer Creek students who choose remote learning will work with Deer Creek staff, and in some cases, teachers from outside Deer Creek who can offer courses that our remote staff cannot.

Hybrid Learning
With the reduction of classroom capacity to 50% in the hybrid model, we will be able to maintain social distancing in our classes. Students will be assigned to grade level groups by last name:

- Group 1 (last name A-K) attends in-person Mondays and Wednesdays, and synchronously from home on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Group 2 (last name L-Z) attends in-person Tuesday and Thursdays, and synchronously from home on Mondays and Wednesdays

Fridays will include asynchronous learning for all students and live Zoom support sessions with teachers. The daily schedule will include six classes - English, math, science, social studies, and two electives - and through cohorting, students will have classes with only two or three student groupings each day. Limiting the number of cohorts per day allows us to offer all six classes each day.

Cohorts will be determined by common math levels and elective/exploratory classes. For core classes, teachers will rotate into classrooms, rather than students moving from class to class. This reduces the number of passing periods and hallway traffic to decrease potential exposure and reduce transition time. Lunch will be eaten in the classroom, and students may bring their own lunch or purchase lunch from the cafeteria.

Temperature checks and screening questions will be a part of building entry each day, as will a staggered start and release time to accommodate the process. Masks will be required while in the building. No lockers will be used, so students will carry backpacks with them during the day and take all belongings home each day. Hand washing, disinfecting, and hand sanitising will occur throughout the day.

It’s important to understand that health safety measures will limit much of the social interaction that is part of a typical day. Students will spend the majority of their day with their cohort of 14-16 students, including lunch and recess. Passing periods will require safe distancing and do not allow for hanging out with other students outside their cohort.

Tell us your choice
With the shift to a hybrid option, families will be asked to resubmit their choice. On Monday, you will receive information from Deer Creek with instructions to submit your choice for this school year. Please complete your submission by Friday, August 7. More details will be forthcoming as our plan develops.
over the next three weeks, but we hope this information will be helpful for families to decide which learning environment meets their needs for our upcoming year.

Rob Hoover
Principal
Deer Creek Middle School