



Distance Learning Academy News

October 5, 2020

Dear DLA Families,

Thank you for your continued support and partnership throughout our first weeks of school. We have received many emails from families expressing thanks to our incredibly hard-working teachers and support staff. Your kind words have meant the world to us, and we feel so fortunate to work with such wonderful families.

Distance learning puts all of us (teachers, parents and students) in the hands of our technology: hardware, software and internet. We know there have been and will continue to be some glitches and issues that are unpredictable. This is uncharted territory for all of us. Your patience is appreciated as we work to ramp up learning and minimize bumps in the road.

Below, please find some additional information and updates:

Webinar Reminders:

This week, we will be hosting live webinars for DLA families. We are excited to show you how our teachers have been utilizing fun and innovative tools to engage students in online learning. You will also hear from our DLA administrators about ways we are working to support our students, academically, socially, and emotionally. If you have questions for the presenters, please submit them prior to the meeting using this [Google Form](#). We hope you can join us! (The meetings will be recorded and posted for those who are unable to attend).

• Grades K-3 Families:

Tuesday, October 6 from 8:30-9:15AM and 7:30-8:15PM ([Link](#)) Password = DLA

• Grades 4 and 5 Families:

Thursday, October 8 from 8:30-9:15AM and 7:30-8:15PM ([Link](#)) Password = DLA

Reporting Absences:

If your child is going to be absent, you must **call your home-school's absence line** and leave a message before arrival time (8:30am). The office is responsible for tracking and recording all absences, dismissals, or late arrivals. In addition, it is extremely helpful for you to **email your child(ren)'s teacher** to let them know your child will be absent from online learning.

Class Lists for Elementary Families:

We are not able to provide class list information until all parents/guardians have the opportunity to review their student information data release settings in Aspen to indicate whether or not we have permission to publish their child's name on class lists. Privacy settings may be updated now. Once privacy settings have been updated and reviewed, we will share class lists if permission has been granted. **Please update your privacy permissions by October 9**. For more information about Aspen, you can visit this [link](#). The PDF with directions on how to update your child's permissions can be found on the lower right side.

Communication Flowchart:

The DLA model is new to all of us, and at times, it can be tricky to remember who to contact as questions arise. To simplify this process, we created the document below for a quick reference. **Please bookmark it!**

[Family Communication Flowchart](#)

Demographic Data:

We have received requests for the demographic information of students in both the DLA and Hybrid models. This [document](#) from the Director of Data Analysis and Enrollment Planning provides the most current information. Additional details will be available in the Preliminary Enrollment report, shared with the School Committee on October 19.

Looking Ahead:

- Monday, October 12: **No School**-Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day
- **Due to Election Day, the district has swapped schedules for Tuesday, November 3rd and Wednesday, November 4, so there will be no students in the building during elections.** The DLA will make this change as well:
 - Tuesday, November 3: Election Day - No In-person learning; **Wednesday Schedule for Cohorts A & B**
 - Wednesday, November 4: **Cohort A in person**
- Wednesday, November 11: Veterans' Day - **No School**

As always, reach out with any questions, and thank you for your continued support.

Jennifer Shore, DLA Principal

Kristen Conrad, DLA Assistant Principal

Maura Morse, DLA Assistant Principal