

February 4, 2022

Dear DPS Family and Friends,

Before I get into updates, I want to share something I learned from a second-grader last week. I learn a lot from students, especially when I join them for lunch. This conversation really stuck with me.

Usually, students tell me they are learning about fractions, what they're reading in class, or some science concept. But this time, the student talked about emotions and how they can be "contagious." I think we can all learn from that and remember that our emotions also help guide the days of others, whether it's at home, in the classroom, or at work.

Below are a few updates:

1. **K-12 Roughrider Virtual Academy** - If you are considering enrolling in our K-12 online academy next year, please click the link below and fill out the survey. A school official will be reaching out to you soon to assist with registration for next year.
[New to RRVA Student Registration](#)
2. **Snow Days** - As schools around the state close due to weather, I want to communicate the plan if that happens here. Last year, we chose not to have snow days in our calendar, opting for a virtual day if the weather was to physically close schools. We did the same this year.

Please know that if the weather prevented our schools from being open, we would move toward virtual instruction for that day. I understand there are many challenges with this decision, such as monitoring weather and getting devices to elementary students before storms, among many others.

In reality, snow make-up days are not ideal either. Luckily, we have not had to (knock on wood) cancel school in a few years. Because of this families tend to plan vacations around snow days, and attendance is usually low.

We will monitor the effectiveness of this strategy and adapt as necessary in the future.

3. **Southwest Area Career & Technical Education Academy (SWACTEA)**– It is with great pleasure that I share that the SWACTEA has been awarded approximately \$6.6 million during the first round of the North Dakota CTE grant.

This project is possible because of the amazing partnerships between five regional schools and Dickinson State University. In addition, we did select an architectural firm, and you should see some exciting things happening at the North Campus (formally Halliburton) very soon! You can read more about the grant [here](#).

Have a grateful weekend,

Marcus Lewton
Superintendent

Success for all!

