

April 22, 2022

Dear DPS Family and Friends,

In my last update to families, I discussed our snow day policy, never imagining that a historic April snowstorm would hit western North Dakota. Thank you for being partners at home and making our virtual days, although not perfect, a great success.

This week, we surveyed staff and students on the effectiveness of virtual learning days, and we invite your feedback as well. Please [click here](#) to fill out a brief, three-question survey on virtual learning.

Because of impending weather, we sent home devices today in an abundance of preparedness; however, we are not anticipating this storm to impact school on Monday.

Below are a few updates:

1. **Early Childhood Preschool** – With the increased demand in our community, Dickinson Public Schools will now offer a five-day half-day preschool program for children ages three-five. If you or someone you know is interested, please use [this link](#) to register. There are a limited number of spots available.
2. **Kinder Kick-off** – On Tuesday, April 26 at 6 pm, we invite all families with incoming kindergartners to the inaugural Kinder Kick-off event. This event will take place at your incoming kindergartner's school. Incoming students will get a chance to visit their school, meet the staff, and receive a free *Class of 2035* t-shirt!
3. **State of the District**– Trust, transparency, and communication are essential within our district and community. Please join us on Thursday, April 28, at Dickinson Middle School at 6 pm to receive an update on the district's finances, facilities, student successes, and more.
4. **School Meal Program Update**– In May 2021, the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) (USDA) announced an extension to the free meals waiver started during the COVID-19 pandemic. This waiver allowed DPS to serve free meals to all students regardless of family income.

The waiver and its free school meal benefits are **set to expire at the end of this school year**. Families **MUST** fill out the Free/Reduced Meals application to continue receiving this benefit next year.

Applications must be filled out before the 2022-2023 school year to avoid charges. Please contact your child's school or Nancy Muffley at the Central Administration Offices at 701-456-0002 for the form or more information.

Have a grateful weekend,

Marcus Lewton
Superintendent

