



Dollarway School District

Home of the Cardinals

Barbara J. Warren, Superintendent

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February 19, 2021

Good evening Dollarway School District Community,

Thank you for your continued support and patience. Between our ongoing COVID-19 response this entire year and the recent closures due to inclement weather, we have all had to make many adjustments. I truly appreciate how flexible and understanding you have been as we make the best decisions we can to ensure the safety of our students. I am writing to you today to notify you of a shift we will be making that will impact the time for instructional delivery to our students. Please see additional details and the rationale for this decision below.

Beginning March 1, 2021, all Dollarway School District campuses will return to traditional school hours. The earliest that students can arrive on campus will continue to be 7:30 am.

➤ **JMES Pre-K: 7:30 am - 2:30 pm**

➤ **JMES Elementary: 8:00 am - 3:00 pm**

➤ **RFMMS: 7:55 am - 3:15 pm**

➤ **DHS: 7:55 am - 3:30 pm**

Virtual and Face-to-Face Options:

At this time, there will be no mandated placement change for students regarding virtual or face-to-face instruction. For example, if a student is a virtual student, they may continue to be a virtual student on March 1, 2021.

Purpose:

The purpose of this shift in the instructional schedule is twofold:

1. **The abbreviated instructional schedule that we have used to start the school year was always meant to be temporary.** We are proud of our district's efforts to keep students and staff safe during these uncertain times. Now, as we look toward increased safety measures, expansion of vaccines, and the decrease of COVID-19 cases, we are poised to return to a "normal school day."
2. **The instructional time and time on task for our students must increase if we are to decrease any potential learning loss.** In short, the less time we engage students in direct instruction, the higher the likelihood of students falling behind. This is not just a Dollarway issue. Districts across the US

have confronted this concern. As we return to a longer instructional day, we know that more time on task for students will equate to better outcomes for our students.

Continued Safety Measures:

Dollarway will continue to adhere to all of the precautions we have utilized up to this point. We will still screen temperatures of staff and students, require face coverings, practice social distancing, and provide sanitization of our buildings.

Changes to Instruction:

Because the instructional day will be extended to "normal hours," shifts in the time allotted for direct instruction will also change. Parents and students, please work with your teachers and principals to better understand the time requirements for direct instruction starting March 1, 2021. This will mean that our students will receive more direct instruction from their teachers. We are really excited about that!

Changes to Transportation:

We will still offer transportation for our students. *The only difference will be the departure time in the afternoon from each school.* Buses will now return students to their homes later in the day due to the change in the instructional schedule. Please work with your student's building principal to better understand the changes in bus route times for your campus.

I want to assure you that principals, teachers, and staff are ready to support our students and families during this change. Thank you for again partnering with us during these changing times, and as we work to expand opportunities and access for ALL students.

Sincerely,



Barbara J. Warren,
Superintendent