

Dear DPS Community,

Thank you for digging out and getting your students to school this week. Here are a few items we want to share:

COVID-19 Testing – As we highlighted in last Wednesday’s email, DPS is in the process of discontinuing the Test and Stay program and contact tracing. Instead, students and staff now have the chance to opt into a new At-Home Testing program. The response to the program has been very strong.

If you have signed up for the program, please be on the lookout for your tests this afternoon. Please click here for directions on test administration:

[Self-Test At-Home Instructions](#)

[Self Test At-Home Instructional YouTube Video](#)

If you haven’t opted-in, you can do so at any time by using the following form: [Opt-In Form/At-Home Testing for Students and Staff](#). Please complete one form for each child.

As a reminder, the At-Home Testing program is structured so that, every other week, the District will provide each child and staff member who opts into At-Home Testing – vaccinated or unvaccinated – with a box that contains two (2) at-home rapid antigen tests. Those participating in the program are encouraged to test every Wednesday. This program is at no cost to children, families, or DPS staff. We will continue to offer testing at school for students and staff that develop symptoms during the school day.

Commemorating the Holocaust – Last Thursday, January 27, was International Holocaust Remembrance Day, marking the 77<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Allied liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. Safeguarding the historical record, remembering the victims, and challenging the distortion of history expressed in antisemitism, are critical aspects of claiming justice after atrocities. This has been part of the middle school curriculum for years, and continued this year when a survivor of the Holocaust, Michael Gruenbaum, spoke virtually with students. We want to thank Deborah L. Coltin from the Lappin Foundation for arranging this special speaker for HRMS!

DHS Principal, Adam Federico, was also interviewed last week about the six-week Intergenerational Holocaust Symposium we are currently hosting in conjunction with the Lappin Foundation. We are halfway through the program, and the response from attendees has been incredible. It has been educational, thought-provoking, and very impactful. We look forward to working elements of the program into the curriculum so as many people as possible can be exposed to the materials.

Elementary Community-Learning Workshop – The two workshops for adults, exploring the big ideas of anti-bias and anti-racist work at the elementary school level, that were held in January were well-received. During the first session, the group engaged in

identity work and its role in helping all students develop a sense of belonging in the classroom and school community. In addition, the group heard from two teachers about how this work played out in their classrooms. At the second session, the group applied the lens of affirmation (seeing yourself) and awareness (seeing others) to elementary culturally-responsive read alouds and the Civics curriculum in grades 3-5.

School Committee Meeting – The next School Committee meeting, which will also include the annual budget presentation, is scheduled for February 14, 2022, at 7:00 pm in the Multi-Purpose Room at HRMS.

Best Wishes,

Keith Taverna & Mary Wermers  
Acting Co-Superintendents

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