

Delaware Valley School District

DR. JOHN J. BELL, SUPERINTENDENT
Administrative Offices - 236 Route 6 & 209 - Milford, PA 18337
(570) 296-1804

First Day of School Changed

August 28, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

At last night's meeting, the Delaware Valley School District board of school directors voted to amend the school calendar **changing the first day of school for students from Monday, August 31 to Wednesday, September 2.**

The students will still have 180 school days. It will not change the last day of school and graduation on June 18, 2021. It simply reduces the number of snow days available this year from 10 to 8.

This change was brought about as a result of the multiple learning options being offered to students for the first time as a result of the pandemic. As of last week, we had approximately 800 students choosing the new Zoom option. By the end of this week, it had grown to more than 1,000 students. We were changing teachers from being in-person teachers to Zoom teachers as late as yesterday to accommodate the increased need. Distributing textbooks and Chromebooks to the 1,000+ Zoom students and bringing the new Zoom teachers up to speed has created a situation we have never confronted before. Thus, we needed extra time to be ready to offer the level of teaching the DV community expects of us. We didn't want to open in a haphazard way just to say we opened. We apologize for the short notice of this important change.

Last spring, we quickly converted to online learning and used a free program called Google Classroom. As with any free product, it has limitations. This year, we invested in a learning management system called Schoology that integrates Google Drive, Power School attendance, Power School grades as well as many of our online textbooks. Students and parents will find it much easier to navigate than what they confronted last spring. All teachers will be using Schoology this year so this extra time will also allow more training time on this new software.

All the best,

John J. Bell

Dr. John J. Bell
Superintendent