



Southern Door County School District

2073 County Highway DK, Brussels, WI 54204

www.sdsd.k12.wi.us

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August 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I wanted to first say I hope that Summer has been treating you and your family well. I hope that you have found time to do many enjoyable things! As we enter the last month of Summer, I wanted to say welcome to the 2022/2023 school year; a year that we are all very excited for as we look forward to working with each and every one of you in one capacity or another.

As I have been reflecting upon last year and looking towards this school year, one theme sticks out to me as having the biggest impact on progress, relationships, and all things education. That theme is **Communication** – namely, how we exchange news about things occurring at school, student progress, school closings, etc. Clear and consistent communication between school and you as parents/guardians – especially when it pertains to our students with IEP's – is critical to quickly addressing and resolving any type of questions, thoughts, ideas, or issues.

My wish for this school year is to help provide a framework to ensure that all parties feel the flow of communication is the best it can be, so that we can provide the best for your child. This framework requires both home and school to work as a team. When we all are on the same page, and taking care to include everyone who needs to be part of the conversation, we are able to more quickly work towards our common goal of success and what is best for your child. While there may be some challenges and disagreements along the way, I ask that everyone keeps an open mind, and focuses on the individual student. What worked for one child may not work for another, and we want to move forward with your child's specific needs, skills and strengths in mind.

To that end, I would like to offer the following considerations when communicating with school and the various individuals that work with your child on any given day. Because it is so important to keep the entire team informed and on the same page, you may find that communicating via **email** whenever possible is the best and most efficient way to accomplish that.

1. When communicating with your child's IEP Case Manager regarding anything related to a class (i.e., grades, homework, exams, etc.) or class teacher (e.g., First grade teacher), please be sure to include the classroom teacher in the conversation to ensure that all parties have the same information. Please also keep in mind that your child's IEP Case Manager will assist with any IEP-related questions, whereas the classroom teacher will assist with anything related to their classroom.

Engage. Empower. Excel.

2. It is our goal that communication will be returned quickly, but please do allow grace as all school personnel are very busy during any given day. I ask that our Pupil Services staff return any communication within one business day, even if their initial response is simply to acknowledge that they received your email, call, etc., and an assurance that they will follow-up with you ASAP.
3. If you feel there is a need to bring more individuals into the conversation, please do so as you see fit. Likewise, please know that if communication is directed to your child's building principal or myself, we will follow up with any and all school individuals that need to be included. Again, the goal is to ensure that we keep consistent and clear communication with the entire team, for the success of your child.

I am fortunate to be part of many conversations throughout the school year, and while the suggestions listed above are nothing new, I have found these strategies to be the most reliable way to bring quick resolution and keep the focus on your child, knowing that we all are doing our best to support and collaborate with one another.

While we are on the topic of home-to-school communication, I am excited to announce that we are launching a fun new project this year, and I truly hope you will consider participating! The child we see at school is only part of the picture. The things we can observe and measure at school – such as Academic Achievement and developmental benchmarks – are important, but are not the *only* meaningful aspects of your child! For parents/guardians willing to share some information about their child/ren, we will be creating one-page **“Get to Know Me!” Profile Posters** for each student, which will be shared with his or her IEP Case Manager, Classroom Teacher(s), Associates, Counselors, and other school staff who will be working closely with that student through the coming school year. We hope these Profile Posters will be an engaging and dynamic opportunity to share and celebrate your child's strengths, gifts and talents, what works for them, and your/their hopes and dreams for their future! Click here to access the “Get to Know Me!” survey: <https://forms.gle/87cNb68quf74zKMM7> (also available on the [Pupil Services page](#) of the school website!)

Once again, I thank you for taking time to read this, and for your commitment to clear and consistent communication regarding your child. If you have any further questions, please reach out to me personally. I am excited for this upcoming school year and the continued AMAZING work that happens at home and school!

Sincerely,



David Desmond
Director of Pupil Services