



Johnny Chandler
Director of Schools
(615)446-7571 FAX (615) 441-1375

Dickson County Board of Education
817 North Charlotte Street
Dickson, TN 37055

August 6, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian of Dickson County Students:

I hope your child had a great start to the 2009 - 2010 school year. We feel Dickson County is one of the top school systems in the State of Tennessee and we are working hard to be the best.

The health and safety of our students are first and foremost. Schools are facing some challenging health issues:

1. As you see from my attached letter from the Commissioner of Education, the new "H1N1" flu is causing concerns. Please read this letter closely.
2. Our schools, like many other schools in Tennessee, had several cases of staph infections (MRSA) last school year. Personal hygiene is vital to prevent the spread of this disease. Hand washing often and keeping wounds covered are the best ways to combat these infections.
3. We will keep our schools and buses as clean and sanitized as we possibly can. Please educate your child on the importance of personal cleanliness.

The State of Tennessee has raised the academic expectations for all students. This is being done, not to fail students, but to better prepare students for a job or to continue on in higher education. The standards are becoming more in depth. The end of course tests and the T-cap tests will also be more difficult. The level to be considered proficient will be much higher.

We feel our teachers are prepared to meet and exceed all of these new expectations.

1. Failure will not be an option for our students. We are going to demand our students complete their school work and do what they are capable of doing.
2. As parents, you have the responsibility to make sure your child is in school when physically able, and has an area at home to complete their school work. As parents you should attend open house, parent/teacher conferences and communicate often with the teacher/school.
3. We will provide before school, after school and in many schools, extra assistance during the school day for students that need some extra help.
4. Students must conduct themselves properly while at school. We want every child to enjoy school and all the activities that occur, but misbehavior will not be tolerated.

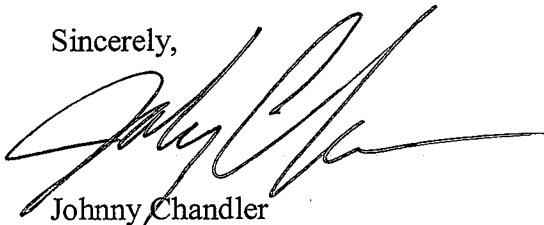
The most important thing you can ever do for your child is to demand he/she receives a good education. It will determine the quality of life your child will experience for the rest of their lives. Don't listen to excuses. Every child in this county, no matter what economic condition, race or gender, has the same opportunity to be successful.

Please make sure your child:

- Does their school work well.
- Prepares for all assessments that are now required.
- Treats everyone with respect.

Please detach the bottom portion of this letter, including your child's name and your signature and return to your child's teacher.

Sincerely,



Johnny Chandler
Director of Schools

Attachment

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I have read the letter from the Commissioner of Education and the letter from the Director of Schools dated August 6, 2009.

(PRINT) Student Name

Parent/Guardian Signature



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CORDELL HULL BLDG.
425 5TH AVENUE NORTH
NASHVILLE TENNESSEE 37243

PHIL BREDESEN
GOVERNOR

SUSAN R. COOPER, MSN, RN
COMMISSIONER

August 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

A new influenza (flu) strain is spreading around the world. This new flu is expected to infect many more people than yearly seasonal flu.

You and your family can help reduce the spread of flu at school and in the community. Good health habits like washing hands, covering coughs and sneezes, and staying home when sick help protect everyone from the flu. In addition, seasonal flu vaccine is recommended for all students every year. It is expected that a vaccine against the new strain of flu will also be available later this fall.

Most people who get flu recover without any treatment or special care. However, flu can cause serious illness in some people, especially those with other health problems. For **all** children and adults who develop a fever of at least 100°F and a cough or sore throat (unless you know the cause and it is not influenza), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends:

- The sick person should stay home, unless medical care is needed, for at least 7 calendar days or until fully recovered for at least 24 hours, whichever is longer. No test for influenza or doctor's note is necessary to justify the absence.
- Students and staff who are well may attend school, even if others at home are sick, but they should stay home as soon as they develop signs of illness.
- Students or staff who become ill at school will be separated from others and sent home as soon as possible.
- During the days of absence from school, sick students should not risk infecting others and should avoid gathering in other public settings or attending any child care facility.

We urge you to **make plans now** for child care at home if your child becomes ill or cannot go to school for a week or longer. Even if your child is not ill, schools may dismiss all students if the number of ill children or staff becomes high. Make plans with family, friends or other parents if you can not stay home with your child.

As information about this new flu becomes available and as we get more details about vaccine, we will update our plans and recommendations and make them available to you on the Tennessee Department of Health Web site at www.state.tn.us/health. Please plan to check it regularly.

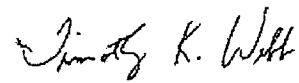
For information on vaccines, how to care for a sick person at home and for other questions about flu, contact your health care provider, local health department or visit the following Web sites:

- www.flu.gov, www.cdc.gov or www.state.tn.us/health (Tennessee Department of Health)

Thank you in advance for your help in protecting the health of all Tennessee students.

Sincerely,


Commissioner of Health


Commissioner of Education