



# DMS Newsflash

J a n u a r y 2 0 2 2

## Upcoming Elementary Equity Lessons

Dear Parents/Guardians,

At Deans Mill School we strive to promote a culture of kindness, acceptance, and appreciation for diversity amongst our students. To help promote these values, we will be implementing a few lessons throughout the year. Listed below are the lessons which will be conducted during the months of January and February in all classrooms at Deans Mill and West Vine Street Schools. The primary focus of these lessons is on acceptance and celebrating our vast differences and capabilities.

The lessons were formulated and the accompanying books were selected by the SPS Elementary School Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee. Lessons were carefully planned out to meet the appropriate developmental levels of our students. If you are interested in viewing the content in your child's grade level book, please click on the pictures below to view a video of the book.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2022!

Jenn & Tom



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## Elementary DEI January/February Books Information

Grade(s)	Book	Book Summary
K		<p>After overhearing some crayons in a toy store complaining about one another, a little girl decides to buy them all and take them home. The girl picks up the colors one by one and draws. When the crayons see the picture they have all helped create, they realize that beautiful things can happen when everyone works together. This classroom favorite began as a poem, and its important message of cooperation was chosen as a theme for the National Anti-Discrimination Campaign for Children.</p> <p>SUMMARY TAKEN FROM: <a href="https://shop.scholastic.com/teachers-ecommerce/teacher/books/the-crayon-box-that-talked-9780590819282.html">HTTPS://SHOP.SCHOLASTIC.COM/TEACHERS-ECOMMERCE/TEACHER/BOOKS/ THE-CRAYON-BOX-TALKED-9780590819282.HTML</a></p>

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Grade(s)	Book	Book Summary
		<p><i>What If We Were All The Same!</i> embraces all of our beautiful differences. Aimed to help children understand there are many great reasons for being friends with those who are different than they are. Whether they have red hair or brown hair, green eyes or blue eyes, long legs or short legs, light skin or dark skin, glasses, uses a wheelchair or anything else, it's absolutely OKAY! Our differences are what makes us unique and if we truly think about it, would you want to be the exact same as someone else? <i>What If We Were All The Same!</i> is fun-filled with rhymes and colorful illustrations, and brings attention to tough topics children can relate to.</p> <p>SUMMARY TAKEN FROM:  <a href="https://www.amazon.com/What-Were-All-Same-Childrens-DP/1733152415">HTTPS://WWW.AMAZON.COM/WHAT-WERE-ALL-SAME-CHILDRENS/DP/1733152415</a></p>
		<p>In <i>Just Ask</i>, United States Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor celebrates the different abilities kids (and people of all ages) have. Using her own experience as a child who was diagnosed with diabetes, Justice Sotomayor writes about children with all sorts of challenges—and looks at the special powers those kids have as well. As the kids work together to build a community garden, asking questions of each other along the way, this book encourages readers to do the same: When we come across someone who is different from us but we're not sure why, all we have to do is <i>Just Ask</i>.</p> <p>SUMMARY TAKEN FROM:  <a href="https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/562056/just-ask-by-sonia-sotomayor-illustrated-by-rafael-lopez/">HTTPS://WWW.PENGUINRANDOMHOUSE.COM/BOOKS/562056/JUST-ASK-BY-SONIA-SOTOMAYOR-ILLUSTRATED-BY-RAFAEL-LOPEZ/</a></p>
		<p>While the other kids happily bound into the classroom, Gabe stands with his mother outside the door, timid and unsure about walking into school. That's because Gabe is the new kid at school and he doesn't speak English. Gabe is from another country. With English as a second language, starting school felt scary and intimidating. How would he know what to do? What would the other kids think? The teacher goes out of her way to make Gabe feel welcome and encourages the other kids to celebrate diversity with empathy. But that doesn't stop Johnny from going out of his way to be unkind. <i>Chocolate Milk, Por Favor</i>, illustrated how actions speak louder than words and drives home the importance of celebrating diversity, kindness, inclusion and empathy. Because no matter what language you speak, kindness is the universal language of all. Learn how to celebrate differences in this powerful story and discover how chocolate milk plays a major role in the discovery of the real universal language.</p> <p>SUMMARY TAKEN FROM:  <a href="https://www.amazon.com/Chocolate-Milk-Por-Favor-Celebrating-DP/1733035966">HTTPS://WWW.AMAZON.COM/CHOCOLATE-MILK-POR-FAVOR-CELEBRATING-DP/1733035966</a></p>

Grade(s)	Book	Book Summary
4 & 5		<p>Frustrated by a day full of teachers and classmates mispronouncing her beautiful name, a little girl tells her mother she never wants to come back to school. In response, the girl's mother teaches her about the musicality of African, Asian, Black-American, Latinx, and Middle Eastern names on their lyrical walk home through the city. Empowered by this newfound understanding, the young girl is ready to return the next day to share her knowledge with her class. <i>Your Name is a Song</i> is a celebration to remind all of us about the beauty, history, and magic behind names.</p> <p>SUMMARY TAKEN FROM:  <a href="https://www.booksource.com/products/your-name-is-a-song_9781943147724.aspx">HTTPS://WWW.BOOKSOURCE.COM/PRODUCTS/YOUR-NAME-IS-A-SONG_9781943147724.ASPX</a></p>

## Important Dates

### January

- 12 Early Dismissal • 1:25 PM • Professional Development
- 13 Board of Education Meeting • District Office • 6:30 PM
- 17 No School • Martin Luther King Day Observance
- 18 PTO Meeting • DMS Gymnasium • 5:30 PM
- 20 Board of Education Budget Meeting • District Office • 6:30 PM
- 27 Board of Education Budget Meeting • District Office • 6:30 PM

### February

- 3 Board of Education Budget Meeting • District Office • 6:30 PM
- 9 Early Dismissal • 1:25 PM • Professional Development
- 10 Board of Education Meeting • District Office • 6:30 PM
- 21 No School • Presidents' Day Observance



## DEI Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

On January 4, 2022 the teachers and related service providers engaged in a professional development session about the legal obligations schools have to our transgender population.

The presentation was based upon the content shared with the administrators by Attorney Rebecca Santiago of Shipman and Goodwin. Additional learning activities included viewing a short video on gender identity and preferred pronouns along with a question/answer session on how to best support transgender students of all ages and their families.



## Mental Health Note



Dear Grade 5 Parents,

I have the privilege of teaching school counseling lessons and facilitating restorative circles during fifth grade YouBlock on Fridays. The fifth grade teachers are instrumental in providing information about the current and future needs of their students, which guides lesson development and circle discussions.

The school counseling lessons have included **How to be an Upstander** and Teamwork. The purpose of **How to be an Upstander** is to teach students how to directly or indirectly address mean-spirited behavior, creating a more kind and respectful community. Teamwork provides students the opportunity to explore being a valued member of a team through a guided group activity.

Restorative circles are a way to promote openness and communication among students to help them celebrate, build community, make decisions, address and repair instances of unexpected behavior. Some of the circle topics have been about transitioning back to school and thoughtful communication. Students have interacted positively and maturely throughout these guided discussions by listening and offering feedback to one another.

If you would like more information about school counseling lessons or restorative circles, please reach out to me at [noraselinger@stoningtonschools.org](mailto:noraselinger@stoningtonschools.org) or 860-535-2235.

Sincerely,  
Nora Selinger  
School Guidance Counselor Gr. 3-5





## Healthy DMS Community

Our goal is to keep DMS healthy and in school. We are asking that you continue to follow the [Parent/Family Responsibility Form - Health Safety Requirements](#).

## COVID Exposure and Positive Case Reporting

To report an exposure or a positive COVID-19 case for students or staff, please email the following information to members of our COVID team:

Lori Tavares, MSN, RN, School Nurse: [DMSNurse@stoningtonschools.org](mailto:DMSNurse@stoningtonschools.org)

Jennifer McCurdy, Principal: [jmccurdy@stoningtonschools.org](mailto:jmccurdy@stoningtonschools.org)

Thomas Bousquet, Assistant Principal: [tombousquet@stoningtonschools.org](mailto:tombousquet@stoningtonschools.org)

When reporting a positive case, please include the following information:

- The date the test was administered
- Date for the onset of symptoms, if applicable
- Was your child identified as a close contact of another positive case?

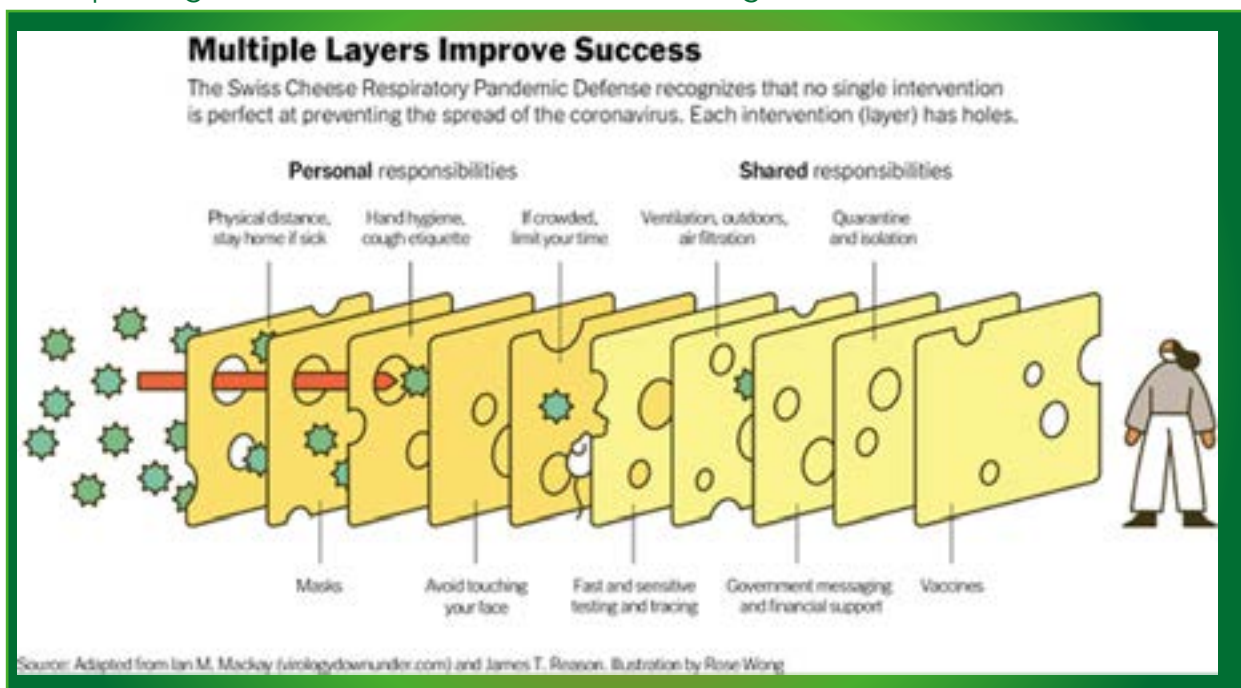
Please access the Stonington Public Schools Updated COVID Protocols and Procedures that went into effect on 1/5/2022. For more information click on the **red** banner on the [Stonington Public Schools home page](#), and/or contact your local healthcare provider for COVID-19 information.

## COVID TESTING and RESULTS:

When indicated, **before** sending your child back to school, **please** contact the school nurse at 860-535-2235, ext. 6116 with the results of the test. Write your child's name and the date of the test on the test instructions, place the actual test strip near it, then email a photo of all of it to [DMSNurse@stoningtonschools.org](mailto:DMSNurse@stoningtonschools.org).

Your child should **not** return to school until the above instructions are completed.

The [Pandemic Defense Swiss Cheese Model](#) really shows how all of the efforts at Deans Mill School are proving to be successful for in-school learning.



Families, please continue to do your part!

Here are some reminders of [How to Protect Yourself and Others from COVID-19](#).

### **Change of Clothes**

We continue to have children who come to the nurse looking for a change of clothes due to a spill or other accident. If clothing has been provided for your child, please wash and return. **We are in need of socks, boys' underwear and pants (elastic waist works best)!** Students in **all grades** should have a change of clothing (shirt, pants, undergarments, and socks, sneakers) to be kept in their lockers. Milk spills! Thank you.

### **Hearing and Vision Referrals**

Hearing and vision greatly affects your child's ability to learn. Please follow up as soon as possible with any referrals, and notify the nurse of appointment dates and outcomes of the visit. Submit the completed referral to the nurse as soon as possible so that we can best help your child at school.

### **FLU Vaccinations:**

Flu shots recommended by the CDC, and are required for DMS preschool students:

[Flu vaccine may lower risk for severe COVID-19, study suggests](#)

### **COVID Vaccinations:**

Please provide a copy of your child's COVID-19 vaccination card once the series is completed. Having this on file will prevent unnecessary quarantine if your child is deemed a close contact of a COVID-19 positive person.

### **Mobile Dental Clinic**

The mobile dental clinic will be coming to Stonington Public Schools. See the flyer on the following page. You can enroll via the QR code provided with link to the printable version if you wish to complete the form and send it in to the school nurse.

Instructions: Please search [Stonington Public Schools home page](#) to find Deans Mill School. Spanish and English versions provided. If interested, please sign up as soon as possible so that scheduling can begin. This is a great opportunity for our community. It's so convenient, and your child may miss less school time.



### **We are all in this together!**

Thank you, DMS community, for doing your part to keep the DMS students and staff in school!

Nurse Lori

[DMSnurse@stoningtonschools.org](mailto:DMSnurse@stoningtonschools.org)

DMS nurse fax: 860-535-2392

# Community Health Center, Inc. is at your school!



Community Health Center, Inc.

## School-Based Health Care

To enroll your child in services, visit:

[www.SBHC1.com/enroll](http://www.SBHC1.com/enroll)



SCAN ME

or call (475) 231-6978

## In-School Services Provided

### Oral Health Services include:

- Screenings
- Exams
- Cleanings
- X-Rays
- Sealants
- Oral Health Education
- Restorative Care

The following fees/charges apply to Community Health Center, Inc.'s Mobile Dental Program.

For patients enrolled in HUSKY/Medicaid, services are 100% covered with no additional fees or charges.

For patient with private health insurance, services are billed to insurance. Patient/Family is responsible for any deductible and/or co-pay.

For patients with no health insurance the following fees apply:

- \$30 for Dental Hygiene visit (includes cleaning, X-rays and Fluoride treatment)
- \$18 per visit for exam by the Dentist
- \$25 per visit for sealants
- \$50 per visit for fillings (if services are available at your child's school)



School-Based Health Care is a division of  
**Community Health Center, Inc.**

To learn more, visit us at:  
[www.CHC1.com](http://www.CHC1.com)

