



ADM Community Schools

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ADM Families and Staff,

The purpose of this message is to provide you with an update about what we currently know related to the status of DeSoto Intermediate and the next steps following the fire that occurred late last evening.

What We Know About The Fire

- The fire occurred on the roof of the 1990s wing of DeSoto Intermediate.
- Fire crews from DeSoto and several surrounding communities responded and were able to put the fire out quickly.
- The fire did not spread throughout the building and was contained to the roof.
- The 2014 wing and 3-story portions of the building were not impacted by the fire.
- The 1990s wing experienced what appears to be significant water and smoke damage.

Cleanup and Restoration

- Service Master and other entities arrived at the building in the early hours of the morning to assess the damage, secure the damaged portions of the roof, and start professional clean-up and restoration to the impacted areas.
- We are hopeful that the 1990s wing of the building can be sectioned off, so cleanup and restoration can occur in those areas, while students continue to occupy the 2014 wing and 3-story portions of the building.

Reoccupying the Building

- This morning we were able to identify classroom reconfigurations and the use of additional spaces in the 2014 wing and 3-story portion of the building that could be used to house the displaced classrooms from the fire-damaged wing.
- DeSoto Intermediate will not be able to reopen until the fire safety systems can be restored and air quality tests indicate that the space is safe for children and staff to return.
- Work on restoring the fire safety systems has been ongoing throughout the day and we are hopeful to have the system back online later this evening or tomorrow.
- Air quality tests started early this afternoon and will continue until tests indicate that the space is safe for children and staff to return. We are hopeful this will occur within the next 24-48 hours.

Impact on the End of the School Year at ADM:

- **DeSoto Intermediate:** Due to state law that requires 1080 hours of student attendance, DeSoto Intermediate will be required to make up each of the missed days of school that result from this fire. There are no exceptions granted by the state due to these types of circumstances. The additional days will be added to the end of the school year following Memorial Day.
- **All other ADM School Buildings:** All other ADM school buildings will continue to have their last day of school on May 26, 2023.

Next Steps:

- There will be no school at DeSoto Intermediate on Thursday, April 20, 2023.
- All other ADM School buildings will continue to have school in their regular buildings as planned.
- We are hopeful but uncertain that DeSoto Intermediate students will be able to return to school on Friday, April 21, 2023. This decision will be made and communicated with families following air quality tests results that will be known tomorrow afternoon.
- At this time we anticipate that students will be able to return to DeSoto Intermediate on Monday, April 24 at the latest. We will communicate with families and staff as soon as we know more or if something changes in our anticipated timeline for reoccupying the building.

Sincerely,
Greg Dufoe
ADM Superintendent

