



COLUMBUS CITY SCHOOLS DEPARTMENT OF ENGAGEMENT DISTRICT UPDATE TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Update for July 31, 2020

PURPOSE: To provide an update on COVID-19 response efforts in Columbus City Schools related to our Community Partners and learn about additional supports within our community.

Email the CCS Department of Engagement at Engage@columbus.k12.oh.us.

ALL-VIRTUAL START TO NEW SCHOOL YEAR FOCUS OF IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT DIXON:

Superintendent Dr. Talisa Dixon announced this week that due to the continued increase of new COVID-19 infections within our school district boundaries and zip codes, **Columbus City Schools will begin the 2020-2021 school year fully remote - all virtual learning - for grades pre-K through 12.**

Joining Dr. Dixon in the major announcement was Board of Education President Jennifer Adair and several school board members, Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther, Columbus City Council President Shannon Hardin, and City Health Commission Dr. Mysheika Roberts. Dr. Dixon also shared the news directly with District staff, families, and community partners through email.

All of the speakers echoed a similar message: although it was our hope that we could return to some form of in-person learning in September, the risk of bringing back 50,000 students and 9,000 employees to our buildings in the fall is far too great.

This completely virtual learning environment will last through at least the first quarter - which is Tuesday, September 8 through Tuesday, October 27 - for schools on the traditional calendar.

Dr. Dixon also stressed that District leaders would continue to monitor public health conditions and seek continued guidance for local and state health experts before determining when it would be safe and practical to begin in-person learning experiences.

Virtual learning this fall - either the new self-paced K-12 Digital Academy or the school-based Remote Learning model - will be far different than the online lessons that began quickly in March and April when school buildings were closed by Governor DeWine's order.

Prior to the start of classes on September 8, parents and families will have an opportunity to train on the new virtual-based learning platforms. During the sessions, teachers will be in contact with their students on a frequent and regular basis.

Added Dr. Dixon: "It is imperative that we work together to make the first quarter the best educational experience possible for all of our students. I know that our dedicated teachers and staff, along with our community partners, are committed to achieving positive outcomes for all our children."

UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENCE BETWEEN “K-12 DIGITAL ACADEMY” AND ‘SCHOOL-BASED REMOTE LEARNING”:

During two hour-long Virtual Family Engagement Sessions this week, members of the District’s Academic team worked to help families understand the difference between the two virtual-learning options that students will have for the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

The “CCS Digital Academy” is a new self-paced completely virtual option for students in Kindergarten through 12th grade (no Pre-K). In a sense, it’s a new school within the District, staffed by Columbus City School teachers and its own principal.

Students can create their own schedules and work at their own speed. All lessons happen through an online learning platform, either without or with very-limited real-time teacher instruction. Teachers are still working with students - though less frequently - through pre-recorded lessons, email, or virtual office visits.

For elementary and middle school students, the District will be using the Edgenuity platform; for high school students, it’s the APEX platform. Both are nationally-recognized. Both offer accessibility features including closed captioning, transcripts, color/contrast options, multiple representation of key concepts, and direct instruction videos.

Families have several options to see how these two platforms work:

- Watch Thursday’s Virtual Family Engagement Session on the Digital Academy (with examples of lessons on both Edgenuity and Apex) at <https://youtu.be/p4Nbephd46A>.
- Edgenuity K-5 platform demo: www.edgenuity.com/video-library/?vid=6073377315001
- Edgenuity 6-8 platform demo: www.edgenuity.com/video-library/?vid=5978276525001

Families must sign up for the “CCS Digital Academy” option by August 1. Otherwise, students will automatically be part of the school-based “Remote Learning” option.

Students in the “Remote Learning” option will have class interactions happening in real time, on a set schedule each school day. Students will access teachers on daily basis through webinars and webcasts, with various platform being used including Google Classroom.

When CCS transitions to in-person learning environments, K-8 students who are in the remote learning option (NOT Digital Academy) will attend in a blended model with both in-person and remote instruction. High school students will either continue with remote instruction or attend in a blended model pending the District’s decision on how best to safely reopen at that time. Digital Academy students would remain all virtual.

It is important for families to keep in mind that registering for the CCS Digital Academy is a semester-long commitment. Once school begins on September 8, students must remain in the CCS Digital Academy through at least the first two quarters of the school year. Also, students who did not sign up prior to August 1 will not be able to switch to the CCS Digital Academy until after the first semester.

Below is a chart with basic information about the two options:

CCS Virtual Learning Options	
CCS Digital Academy (must register by Aug. 1)	Remote K-8 Learning (no action required)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-paced online platforms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Edgenuity for K-8 ◦ Apex for 9-12 • Course credits meet all requirements • Incremental lessons on specific content • Students responsible for participation in self-paced learning • Student attendance tracked • Must remain enrolled in Digital Academy for at least the first two quarters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newly adopted curriculum resources with digital and print resources • Specific daily delivery of content by teacher using technology for engagement • Students responsible for participation in teacher lessons and completing assignments • Student attendance tracked • Automatically enrolled in student's current school • Students will transition to blended learning when CCS opens for in-person instruction.
All CCS Students will receive:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free breakfast and lunch at CCS Grab and Go sites. • Every CCS student who needs a computer will have access to their own device. • CCS will also provide hotspot internet access devices to any family who needs one. More information to come. • For more information visit: https://www.ccssoh.us/domain/3474 	

MORE VIRTUAL FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS:

Hundreds of Columbus City Schools families are taking advantage of the great information and updates coming from our series of Virtual Family Engagement Sessions, hosted every Tuesday and Thursday (6:00 - 7:00 p.m.). Below are the topics and dates for future sessions:

- Tuesday, August 4, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. - English as a Second Language - SPANISH
- Wednesday, August 5, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. - English as a Second Language - SOMALI
- Wednesday, August 5, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. - English as a Second Language - NEPALI
- Thursday, August 6, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. - English as a Second Language - ARABIC
- Thursday, August 6, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. - English as a Second Language - FRENCH

Our English-as-a-Second Language interpreters will be part of these special sessions for our New American and Immigrant families.

Participants must register to attend the F.A.C.E. 2 Face virtual family engagement sessions. You can sign up to attend - or go back and watch previous Virtual Family Engagement Sessions - by visiting our District website at www.ccssoh.us/Page/8212.



FREE MASKS DISTRIBUTED AT CITY REC CENTERS

Our partners at Columbus Recreation and Parks will be providing free masks at many of the city's rec centers (along with free fresh produce). Below are the locations and dates when CCS families are encouraged to stop by:

Adams Community Center
854 Alton Avenue
Aug. 13, Aug. 27, Sept. 10 and Sept. 24

Holton Community Center
303 N. Eureka Avenue
Aug. 6, Aug. 20, Sept. 3 and Sept. 17

Barnett Community Center
1184 Barnett Road
Aug. 14 and Sept. 11

Howard Community Center
2505 N. Cassady Avenue
Aug. 13, Aug. 27, Sept. 10 and Sept. 24

Beatty Community Center
247 N. Ohio Avenue
Aug. 14 and Sept. 11

Marion Franklin Community Center
2801 Lockbourne Road
Sept. 24

Dodge Community Center
667 Sullivant Avenue
Aug. 13, Aug. 27, Sept. 10 and Sept. 24

Milo Grogan Community Center
862 E. 2nd Avenue
Aug. 7, Aug. 21, Sept. 4 and Sept. 18

Feddersen Community Center
3911 Dresden Street
Aug. 7, Aug. 21, Sept. 4 and Sept. 18

Scioto Southland Community Center
3901 Parsons Avenue
Aug. 13, Aug. 27, Sept. 10 and Sept. 24

Glenwood Community Center
1888 Fairmont Avenue
Aug. 6 and Aug. 20

Tuttle Park Community Center
240 W. Oakland Avenue
Aug. 7, Aug. 21, Sept. 4 and Sept. 25

Help slow the spread of COVID-19 and keep our community safe. Show respect and kindness to others by wearing a cloth face covering in public.

SHARE YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION UPDATES:

Please share this Community Update with the families and stakeholders you serve.

It's important we communicate as much as possible to as many people as possible - in as many languages as possible - about the steps being taken in Columbus City Schools to support students and families.

**Our work is far from over, and we want to honor your continued commitment.
Please share your updates with us at Engage@columbus.k12.oh.us.**