



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

Update for July 10, 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.

VIRTUAL FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS PROVIDE FAMILIES WITH UPDATED INFORMATION ON REOPENING PLANS:

Columbus City Schools has launched a series of Virtual Family Engagement Sessions to provide updated information and answer parents' questions about the plans to safely reopen our schools in the fall. The first two sessions attracted more than 1100 registered participants.

Appropriately named "F.A.C.E. 2 Face" (Family And Community Engagement), these online virtual sessions are hosted in Zoom chatrooms by the Department of Engagement and expert District staff who share information and insights on specific topics. We know families have a lot of questions, so the staff tries to answer as many questions as possible during the hour. Still, we remind parents that many of the details and final reopening plan are under development.

The District is committed to hosting regular Virtual Family Engagement sessions each week leading up to the start of the school year and beyond into the fall semester to keep families informed and engaged. Below are the planned topics for the next two weeks:

- Tuesday, July 14, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. - focus on Student Health & Safety
- Thursday, July 16, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. - focus on Social Emotional Learning
- Tuesday, July 21, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. - focus on English as a Second Language Learners
- Thursday, July 23, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. - focus on Special Education/Special Needs

Families must register to attend the F.A.C.E. 2 Face virtual family engagement sessions by visiting www.ccsok.us/rsvp.

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR CCS K-12 DIGITAL ACADEMY:

Columbus City Schools families who may not want to send their children to school in-person can choose to have their students attend the all-virtual K-12 Digital Academy.

Starting Monday, July 13, families can use the CCS Parent Portal to register their students for the CCS Digital Academy.

This completely-remote learning option will be self-paced so students can go as quickly or as slow as they need to complete the work to earn credits. District staff will work with families to create personalized learning experiences for Digital Academy students.



Student attendance and idle time will be tracked through the district-selected platforms. The Digital Academy will use Edgenuity for K-8 students and Apex for high school students. The Apex learning platform is compliant with interscholastic athletic eligibility and NCAA requirements.

Special note for lottery students: parents have the option to select the CCS Digital Academy for their student while keeping their current school enrollment. This means if your student is enrolled at Ft. Hayes Art & Academic High School, they can attend the Digital Academy this year and return to Ft. Hayes the following school year.

HELP WITH YOUR PARENT PORTAL

The Parent Portal is a great tool for families to contact teachers, check grades and attendance, view assignments, apply for the school choice lottery, and complete the annual update.

Each parent/guardian has their own personalized activation code to access the portal. To receive your code - or if you have lost your previous login information - email your picture ID along with your child's name and date of birth to parentportalaccess@columbus.k12.oh.us. To get to the Parent Portal, visit our website at www.ccsok.us and click on the FAMILIES tab, then click on the Parent Portal link.

MORE INFORMATION AS PLANS CHANGE

It is important for families to know that the Superintendent's reopening recommendations may change based on a number of factors. District leaders are in continual discussions with health experts regarding the status of the COVID-19 pandemic within Columbus and our district boundaries. Updated COVID-19 information and changing guidance from state health and education department officials necessitate operational flexibility, and therefore Dr. Dixon indicated that CCS families should anticipate changes to the reopening plan.

More information and updates on our reopening plan - along with answers to the frequently asked questions we've been hearing - can be found online at www.ccsok.us/reopening.

BOARD SETS TIMELINE FOR SAFE SCHOOLS WORKING GROUP

The Columbus Board of Education has set a timeline for the selection of members to the Safe Schools Working Group, which will have a common goal of evaluating the safety and security program in Columbus City Schools.

The Board is tentatively set to announce the members of the Safe Schools Working Group, its chairs, and a facilitator at a Special Board Meeting on July 21. Prior to the first working group meeting, the Board will host a series of Focus Group Sessions to gather additional community feedback. More than 200 individuals have expressed interest in being part of this working group, including current and former students, families, staff, partners, and members of the community.

The Safe Schools Working Group will be expected to present initial recommendations to the Board of Education in November, with final Board recommendations in December.



VACCINE CLINICS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

It's still important for kids to stay up-to-date on vaccines especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Vaccines help keep our community healthy and avoid the spread of preventable diseases such as the measles.

Columbus City Schools is partnering with Nationwide Children's Hospital to make it easy for children and young adults to get their needed vaccines at locations close to home. Here are the locations and dates for the neighborhood vaccine clinics:

Northland High School - 1919 Northcliff Drive
July 14, July 29

East High School - 1500 E. Broad Street
July 15

Linden-McKinley STEM Academy - 1320 Duxberry Avenue
July 21

Buckeye Middle School - 2950 Parsons Avenue
July 22

Marion-Franklin High School - 1265 Koebel Road
July 24

West High School - 179 S. Powell Avenue
July 31

All clinics are from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Schedule your visit by calling 614-355-2590. Walk-ins are welcome. Complete medical visits or COVID-19 testing are not provided, only vaccines.

SPOTLIGHT: SPARK LEARNING IN YOUNGEST STUDENTS

Do you have a child who will start kindergarten in the fall of 2021? Do you live in the zip code 43205, 43206 or 43207?

The SPARK Program through our partners at Nationwide Children's Hospital helps parents and our city's youngest learners get ready for kindergarten. The program is offering social distancing and virtual visits to help students learn new words, discover letter sounds, do preschool math, and write letters and numbers. Children who are in the SPARK program do better on school testing than children who have not been in SPARK.

SPARK is free, with free books and school supplies. For more information, please call 614-355-0714 or send an email to: SPARK@nationwidechildrens.org.

SPOTLIGHT: ACTORS' THEATRE SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Actors' Theatre of Columbus is hosting a series of socially-distant in-person camps this summer in Schiller Park and is offering full-tuition scholarships to eligible Columbus City Schools families.

No previous theatre experience is required; all of the camps are entry level. Below are some of the upcoming camps:

Discover Shakespeare

ELEMENTARY (entering grades 1-5)

July 20-24, 9am-12:30pm (3 ½ hours)

A fun way to introduce your child to Shakespeare! The camp will conclude with a final performance exhibiting scenes from Henry VI, Part 2 on the Schiller Park stage on July 24.

Introduction to Acting Shakespeare

MIDDLE SCHOOL (entering grades 6-8)

July 27-31, 9am-12:30pm (3 ½ hours)

All the world's a stage and here campers will get to experience the comedy and tragedy of Shakespeare's work. The camp will conclude with a final performance exhibiting scenes from Henry VI, Part 3 on the Schiller Park stage on July 31.

Discover Acting

ELEMENTARY (entering grades 1-5)

August 3-7, 9am-12:30pm (3 ½ hours)

Introduce your child to the world of acting! Campers will discover what it's like to explore acting onstage. The camp will have a final performance on the Schiller Park stage on August 7.

Behind the Scenes

HIGH SCHOOL (entering grades 9-12)

August 10-14, 1:30-5pm (3 ½ hours)

Learn what it takes to run a theatre company. Work with sets, props, costumes, lights, and sound. Ideal for high schoolers who are interested in theatre but do not want to act onstage.

Information and registration can be found at www.theactorstheatre.org/education/camps/.

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.