



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

**Update for July 24, 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](mailto:Engage@columbus.k12.oh.us).

### **IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT DIXON SENT TO FAMILIES, STAFF, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS:**

With new health and safety information coming almost daily to leaders in Columbus City Schools, Superintendent Dr. Talisa Dixon shared some important updates with families, District staff, and community partners this week on plans for the safe reopening of our schools in September.

In her emailed letter, she reiterated that our priority for the 2020-2021 school year is to keep our entire CCS community - students and their families, all teachers, staff, and administrators - safe during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. That priority hasn't changed and will not change.

With the spread of COVID-19 continuing to increase, a team from Columbus Public Health shared some sobering numbers on the virus' impact in neighborhoods throughout our city. Based on this insight, Columbus Public Health shared two important recommendations.

#### **RECOMMENDATION FOR EVERYONE TO WEAR MASKS IN SCHOOL**

Because of the continued spread of infection, it is recommended that both staff and students be required to wear masks in our school buildings.

This is in addition to all the social distancing protocols that would be in place, such as keeping six feet distance whenever possible, washing hands frequently, using hand sanitizer, and sanitizing high-touch surfaces regularly.

#### **RECOMMENDATION TO CONSIDER FULLY-REMOTE START**

Columbus Public Health believes it's important to see four consecutive weeks of decreasing numbers of new COVID cases in order for Columbus City Schools to reopen safely.

That means, as we monitor the data and seek continued guidance, we'll need to give serious consideration to beginning the school year with a fully remote learning model.

Dr. Dixon emphasized that no decisions have been made. She also stressed that, for all our students to be safe and successful, it is imperative that we all work together, arm in arm, to determine the best reopening plan and to provide the most equitable learning opportunities for all of our students when we begin the school year on September 8.

## **MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL PROVIDE \$7.1 MILLION IN CARES ACT FUNDS TO PROVIDE CHROMEBOOKS TO CCS STUDENTS**

Further supporting our students' access to distance learning with the help of technology, Columbus City Schools is partnering with Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther and Columbus City Council to purchase additional laptop computers for the upcoming school year.

On Wednesday, the Mayor announced that the city will provide more than \$7.1 million in CARES Act funds to purchase 20,000 Chromebooks, thus providing 20,000 more students with the tools they need to succeed in this unprecedented time.

This past spring, more than 19,000 Chromebooks were distributed to students who needed access to laptops. Hotspots to access the internet were also provided to many families.

The District is working with school principals on how the new Chromebooks will be distributed. More information will be provided to families on this effort in the coming weeks.

## **UPDATES FROM 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.

The “F.A.C.E. 2 Face” (Family And Community Engagement) live online sessions are hosted every Tuesday and Thursday (6:00 - 7:00 p.m.) by the Dept. of Engagement and expert staff who share information and insights on specific topics as well as try to answer parent questions.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION & SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

This week, the District’s Special Education and Student Support Services team provided a lot of answers to questions families had about Individualized Educational Plan (IEPs) and 504 Plans for accommodations as part of a remote-learning or blended learning model.

Kyra Schloenbach, the Executive Director of Special Education, stressed that flexibility would be important, emphasizing that IEPs and 504 Plans weren’t developed for the non-traditional environments and schedules being considering in response to the COVID-19 health crisis.

Still, the parameters and spirit of these plans would be followed and honored no matter the educational setting, though services may be delivered differently. For example, therapy services would be provided virtually when possible.

Teletherapy sessions would allow for live video lessons and meetings - or caregivers might opt to use pre-recorded lessons, exercise plans, or specialized books - to assist students.

As we get closer to the start of school in September, services, accommodations, and the need for instructional supports will be reviewed so that students are receiving individualized assistance in the setting they are attending.

## **LOGGING INTO THE PARENT PORTAL**

Families can easily stay engaged in their children's education by signing into the Columbus City Schools Parent Portal. This great tool offers secure access to valuable information such as grades and course schedules, daily attendance, missed assignments, and teacher contacts.

The Parent Portal is also used to apply for School Choice, Summer School, and Career Tech; pay student fees; and to keep family contact information up-to-date throughout the school year.

During this week's Virtual Family Engagement Session, our Parent Portal experts reminded families that it's very important to update your child's contact information every year, and now it's much easier through the step-by-step Annual Update. This includes emergency contacts, phone numbers, and email addresses.

Each parent/guardian has their own personalized activation code to access the portal. To receive your code - or if you 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](mailto:parentportalaccess@columbus.k12.oh.us). To get to the Parent Portal, visit our website at [www.ccsok.us](http://www.ccsok.us) and click on the FAMILIES tab.

If you still have questions, call the District's FACTLine at 614-221-FACT (3228) or the Central Enrollment Center at 614-365-4011.

## **MORE F.A.C.E. 2 FACE OPPORTUNITIES**

The District is committed to hosting these 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.

Each week, hundreds of families sign up to attend these virtual meetings. Below are the topics and dates for future F.A.C.E 2 Face sessions:

- Tuesday, July 28, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. - demonstration of CCS Virtual Academy platform
- Thursday, July 30, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. - to be determined
- 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

Families must register to attend the F.A.C.E. 2 Face virtual family engagement sessions by signing up at [www.ccsok.us/rsvp](http://www.ccsok.us/rsvp). Prior to the event (typically the day before), you'll receive an email with the link to the Zoom session.

Don't worry if you missed one of these informative sessions. You can also go back and watch previous Virtual Family Engagement Sessions. The recorded sessions are now available at [www.ccsok.us/Page/8212](http://www.ccsok.us/Page/8212).



## **REGISTRATION DEADLINE 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 CCS K-12 Digital Academy. The deadline for families to register their students for the CCS Digital Academy is August 1.

A demonstration of the Digital Academy learning platform will be shared during the Virtual Family Engagement Session on Tuesday, July 28, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. (see above).

You can find answers to many of our frequently-asked questions about the Digital Academy on [www.ccschools.us/Page/8257](http://www.ccschools.us/Page/8257). Enrollment in the Digital Academy is easy through the Parent Portal.

## **FREE MASKS DISTRIBUTED AT CITY REC CENTERS**

This week, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine issued a statewide mandate requiring residents to wear masks when in public. We know that not every family has access to these masks. So our partners at Columbus Recreation and Parks will be providing free masks at many of the city's recreation centers (along with free fresh produce).

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.

### **SPOTLIGHT: UPLIFT CBUS WITH FREE FAMILY HEALTH GEAR**

This Saturday, you can join our partners at the Columbus My Brother's Keeper/MBK Village for a special "Uplift Cbus" free pop-up distribution event.

With support from the City of Columbus, Franklin County Commissioners, and the Make-a-Day Foundation, families will be able to pick up free cleaning supplies, personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks, activity kits for younger students, and fresh produce.

The Saturday event is at the Howard Community Center (2505 N. Cassady Avenue) from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There will be a drive-through pickup for social distancing safety.

### **SPOTLIGHT: VACCINE CLINICS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD**

Don't forget about the upcoming neighborhood clinics so more of our students stay up-to-date on vaccines especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Columbus City Schools has been 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 last neighborhood vaccine clinics this month:

Northland High School - 1919 Northcliff Drive  
July 29

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: MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL**

Our partners at North Community Counseling Centers are offering FREE back-to-school prep groups for any students in Columbus City Schools. The goal of these online virtual groups will be to educate, enhance, and practice coping skills, while managing stressors during this transition back to school. Here are some examples:

- Social Skills (Grades 1-2; 3-5) - How to Be a Good Friend: This group focuses on self-esteem, communication, and decision-making. Students are educated and practice listening skills, communication skills, and socially acceptable behavior.
- Overcoming Anxiety (Grades 6-8) - Glass Half Full: This group focuses on identifying negative thoughts, managing stress, and developing positive coping skills. Students are educated on identifying negative thoughts and engaged by practicing coping skills to help alleviate and manage stress.



- Emotional Regulation (Grades 9-12) - Assertive Not Angry: This group focuses on communication, self-control, assertiveness, and coping skills. Students will be educated on communication and identifying potential triggers. Students will practice expressing feelings in appropriate ways and discuss the best outlets and coping skills. Students will also practice how to be assertive in socially acceptable manner.
- Race Relations and Identity (Grades 6-8 and 9-12): This group focuses on identity and culture, communication, decision-making, and healthy relationships. Student will discuss the different components that help to form our identity and how this impacts our thought processes. Students will open lines of communication, discuss how to make educated decisions, and cultivate healthy relationships.

For more information and to sign up your child for one of these impactful sessions, go online to [www.northcommunity.com/backtoschool](http://www.northcommunity.com/backtoschool) or call 614-261-3196.

### **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](mailto:Engage@columbus.k12.oh.us).**