



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

Update for August 28, 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.

GEAR UP! SCHOOLS SET SPECIAL TIMES TO HAND OUT CHROMEBOOKS AND MATERIALS FOR NEW SCHOOL YEAR:

Now is the time for CCS students to GEAR UP for the new school year. Principals at all of our schools have set special times September 1-4 and September 8-9 for students to come to the buildings to pick up instructional materials, Chromebooks, band instruments, and more.

Pick-up days, times, and procedures will vary by school.

By now, students in all CCS schools, including the new K-12 Digital Academy, should have heard from the principal at their school of attendance regarding the GEAR UP dates. If you haven't heard when your child's pick-up day will be, please contact the school directly, check your email, or look on the school's website.

Several schools are also hosting virtual "back to school" sessions for families to meet administrators and ask questions about the upcoming school year.

Make sure you're ready to GEAR UP. Principals are sharing school-specific pick-up information on when, where, and how to visit the school to get Chromebooks (if needed), instructional materials, and other necessary items to start the year.

FUEL UP! NEW INFO ON WHERE TO GET HEALTHY MEALS:

Since the start of the COVID-19 crisis, the Columbus City Schools Food Services team has provided more than half-a-million healthy meals through our 15 Grab-and-Go Food Site locations. The team is now focusing on serving more meals to more students at more locations, as virtual classes start in September.

When classes start on September 8, Columbus City Schools will open 44 Grab-and-Go Food Site locations at schools across the city. Students will be able pick up 5-day meal packs to cover breakfast and lunch for a week. This service will only be for registered CCS students.

Families will be assigned a location to pick up their students' meals based on their address in Infinite Campus (not necessarily the same school in which they attend). Assignments will be shared starting next week through automated phone calls and parent emails. The locations are regional and placed at the schools nearest the highest density of student populations.



CCS STUDENT MEAL ACCESS SITES
 STUDENTS WILL BE ASSIGNED A LOCATION TO GET MEALS

| <u>Region 1</u> | <u>Region 2</u> | <u>Region 3</u> |
|---|--|--|
| West High School Wedgewood Middle School Starling K-8 Avondale Elementary Burroughs Elementary Highland Elementary Sullivant Elementary West Broad Elementary West Mound Elementary | Independence High School Johnson Park Middle School Sherwood Middle School Easthaven Elementary Leawood Elementary Woodcrest Elementary | South High School Buckeye Middle School Cedarwood Elementary East Columbus Elementary Lincoln Park Elementary Livingston Elementary Trevitt Elementary Watkins Elementary |
| <u>Region 4</u> | <u>Region 5</u> | <u>Region 6</u> |
| Centennial High School Columbus Global Academy Como Elementary Cranbrook Elementary Indianola K-8 Salem Elementary Weinland Park Elementary | Beechcroft High School Medina Middle School Mifflin Middle School Woodward Park Middle School Woodward Park @ Walden Devonshire Elementary Innis Elementary Northtowne Elementary | Eastmoor Academy Linden McKinley STEM Academy Berwick K-8 Linden Park ECE South Mifflin Elementary Windsor Stem Elementary |

The 5-day meal packs will be shelf stable - no refrigeration required - to assure food safety. If desired, students will have the option of taking milk (which would require refrigeration).

To make it easier for families to come to the schools, the pick-ups will take place on Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

More information on the Fuel Up Food Plan will be coming to families starting next week.

PLAY ON! ATHLETICS AND EXTRACURRICULARS TO RESUME:

With news of a decreasing trend in positive COVID-19 cases in the city of Columbus, CCS Superintendent/CEO Dr. Talisa Dixon announced that the District will allow in-person interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities to resume.

Additional details about schedules and return-to-play timelines will be discussed with school principals, athletic directors, and coaches.

The Ohio Public Health Advisory Alert System also showed today that Franklin County is at a decreased level of “orange.” However, if local public health data regarding COVID-19 worsens, Columbus City Schools will consider suspending all in-person athletics and extracurricular activities again to help mitigate the spread of the virus in our community.

LOG ON! HELP FOR FAMILIES TO USE ONLINE PARENT PORTAL:

The Columbus City Schools Parent Portal is a valuable tool to stay engaged in your child's education to securely access valuable information, such as grades and course schedules, daily attendance, and missed assignments.

During our virtual start to the new school year, the Parent Portal will also be an important tool for families to stay connected with their child's teachers and school.

USE PARENT PORTAL TO PICK BLENDED LEARNING DAYS

As District leaders monitor public health conditions and determining when it is safe and practical to begin in-person learning experiences, our schools will be ready to implement a blended model of learning - in-person instruction (two days a week) and remote at-home learning (three days a week).

Depending on the recommendations from our local and state health departments, the move to a blended learning model could come at the beginning of the second quarter (October 29).

In preparation for the move to a blended model, families need to log on to our Parent Portal before September 4 to select if they would rather their scholars go to school in person with Cohort A (Mondays and Tuesdays) or with Cohort B (Thursdays and Fridays).

SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS ON PARENT PORTAL

We know accessing the Parent Portal for the first time - or remembering how to navigate through it - can be a challenge. That's why we are dedicating the two Virtual Family Engagement Sessions before the start of classes specifically to using the Parent Portal.

The "F.A.C.E. 2 Face" (Family And Community Engagement) live online sessions are Tuesday and Thursday (6:00 - 7:00 p.m.). Expert staff will share information and insights on how to access the Parent Portal. Our team will also be able to help parents/guardians who may need help resetting their login information.

- Tuesday, September 1, 6:00-7:00 p.m. - Log On! Help with Parent Portal
- Thursday, September 3, 6:00-7:00p.m. - Log On! Help with Parent Portal

Our partners from the Columbus Metropolitan Library will also join our Virtual Family Engagement Session to share information on CML's virtual homework help centers, reading buddy program, and tech support for students having trouble using their Chromebooks.

Community partners who would also like to understand how the Parent Portal works - and how you can help the families you serve if they are struggling to log in - are also encouraged to join us.

Register to attend the Log On! Help with Parent Portal virtual family engagement sessions by visiting www.ccsosoh.us/rsvp.

OTHER WAYS TO ACCESS THE PARENT PORTAL

If a parent/guardian does not have access to their Parent Portal Account in Infinite Campus, they can obtain access by sending a picture ID, along with the child's name and date of birth, to parentportalaccess@columbus.k12.oh.us. If the parent/guardian previously had access but can't remember the password, they can select "reset password" and an automatic email will be sent to the email provided when they signed up.

If they do not remember the email that was used when the account was set up, an email with the parent/guardian ID, student's name and date of birth should be sent to parentportalaccess@columbus.k12.oh.us to have this information reset.

NEW K-12 DIGITAL ACADEMY WELCOMES FAMILIES:

More than 6,000 CCS students signed up to participate in our first-ever online CCS K-12 Digital Academy, and our District's newest school welcomed its families and students with a special series of virtual "back-to-school" nights.

In the K-12 Digital Academy, students can create their own schedules and work at their own speeds. 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.

As part of our successful weekly Virtual Family Engagement Sessions, the new administrators of the CCS K-12 Digital Academy welcomed families and shared important information on how the school year will start, how students will be connected and tracked, and how to communicate with the new CCSDA principal, Ms. Christian Angel.

If you missed the CCS Digital Academy Family Welcome Session and want to watch a recording, simply visit the Virtual Family Engagement Session section of our website at www.ccsdh.us/Page/8212.

RISE UP! CCS STAFF AND PARTNERS PARTICIPATE IN TWO WEEKS OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING:

Here in Columbus City Schools, we have not let the COVID-19 crisis keep us down... our dedicated teachers, staff, and administrators are ready to RISE UP to the challenge and to safely start the 2020-2021 school year.

Thousands of employees and community partners have been participating in the District's intensive two-week Summer Institute, with a host of different training and professional development opportunities

The Summer Institute has also included training for staff on new safety and health protocols, new curriculum and classroom tools (both virtual and physical), and lessons on equity and engagement.

ICYMI: TRAINING SESSIONS YOU MIGHT WANT TO WATCH

In case you missed it... the first week of this special two-week Summer Institute has included some must-see sessions. Below are links to the recordings of these sessions on our District's YouTube channel:

All-Staff Virtual Convocation: https://youtu.be/9AN_xYduMIM

The Summer Institute begins with an inspirational All-Staff Virtual Convocation, bringing together more than 6,500 staff and community partners. You can hear Dr. Dixon's welcome message as well as words of support from students, a parent, our union/association leaders, a national expert, and an alumnus-turned-TV news anchor.

Health and Safety Protocols with COVID-19: <https://youtu.be/ZO9Cmha69Os>

Our Director of Health, Family & Community Services provided an overview of the new health protocols in place to address COVID-19 concerns in our buildings.

Social Emotional Learning: <https://youtu.be/XpPU48YujxEA>

The District continues to prioritize the supports needed for our students' social emotional health and learning. This year, we will have help from an exciting new nationally-recognized partner.

These videos will remain on the District's YouTube channel for a limited time.

UPDATE ON SAFE SCHOOLS WORKING GROUP

Columbus City Schools will host the first of two Safe Schools Working Group virtual community sessions next Wednesday (September 2) starting at 6:00 p.m.

The first session will include a presentation from CCS staff outlining the District's current safety and school climate efforts, including social emotional learning, safety and security, and Board of Education policies. The presentation will be live streamed, and viewers will then be given a link at which they can submit their feedback.

Community members and partners can watch the virtual sessions live on the District's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ColumbusCitySchools/) The feedback the District receives from viewers will help inform the discussions and efforts of the Safe Schools Working Group.

In June 2020, the Columbus Board of Education announced the formation of a Safe Schools Working Group to evaluate the safety and security program in Columbus City Schools, including the District's relationship with the Columbus Police Department.

The working group includes a broad range of stakeholders and will be asked to make recommendations to the Board of Education and the Superintendent regarding the District's full safety and security program.

The second virtual session will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 8, at 6:00 p.m.



QUICK REMINDER: ENROLL NOW IN CCS PRE-K

Early Childhood Education enrollment is starting now, and space is limited! Families must register online and schedule a virtual enrollment appointment. Classes begin on September 15 and will be virtual until at least October 27.

Our Pre-Kindergarten curriculum includes interactive lessons, hands-on activities, and engaging learning opportunities with highly qualified Ohio certificated teachers and instructional assistants. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in enrichment activities provided by their teachers and local community partners...more information coming soon.

All early learners who will be 4 years of age by September 30 and who reside in the Columbus City Schools District have the opportunity to enroll their children in a high-quality Pre-K program with our Division of Early Childhood Education.

Families interested in Pre-K must complete an online registration and schedule an enrollment appointment. Due to social distancing, all appointments are being conducted virtually at the scheduled appointment time. For questions regarding Pre-K enrollment, please email centralenrollment@columbus.k12.oh.us.

QUICK REMINDER: CLOTHING FROM CHARITY NEWSIES:

One of Columbus City Schools' strongest and longest partners, Charity Newsies is now taking clothing requests online to assist all K-12 CCS families needing help with free clothing essentials like new pants, shirts, socks, school uniforms, or new warm winter clothing.

Each year, Charity Newsies provides nearly 12,000 Franklin County students with free brand new, brand name clothing, so that they can feel comfortable and confident in pursuit of their education, whether it's starting via remote learning or in person.

New this year, Charity Newsies has launched an online submission process. Submitting your request is easy. Visit www.charitynewsies.org or contact Charity Newsies at 614-263-4300 to submit your clothing request now through January 31. Items will be pre-packed and distributed curb-side at the Charity Newsies headquarters on scheduled pick-up date.

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.