



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

Update for August 21, 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.

RISE UP AND GEAR UP - CCS STAFF AND BUILDINGS PREPARE FOR SAFE START TO NEW SCHOOL YEAR:

Here in Columbus City Schools, we are not letting 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.

Monday marks the start of the District's intensive two-week Summer Institute, with training and professional development opportunities for all employees and many of our community partners. This special two-week period will begin with an All-Staff Virtual Convocation on Monday morning at 8:30 a.m. The Summer Institute will also include training for staff on new safety and health protocols, new curriculum and classroom tools (both virtual and physical), and lessons on equity and engagement.

REACHING OUT TO FAMILIES TO GEAR UP

CCS students can GEAR UP for the new school year starting on September 2. Families should have already started hearing from their school principal with back-to-school information.

Students in all CCS schools, including the new K-12 Digital Academy, have the opportunity to pick up instructional materials, Chromebooks, band instruments, and more.

Pick-up procedures will vary by school. Principals will be sharing school-specific pick-up information on when, where, and how to visit the school to Chromebooks, instructional materials, and other necessary items to start the year.

CHROMEBOOKS ARE ALL IN

Our District's technology team has received all of the 20,000 new Chromebook computers that were purchased with federal CARES Act funding from the City of Columbus. The last shipment of these devices came in two weeks ahead of schedule.

Technology staff are now in the process of getting the Chromebooks ready to distribute to students before the start of the school year.

As a reminder, the City of Columbus was gracious enough to support our students by donating more than \$7.1 million dollars to purchase these 20,000 computers.



FOOD SERVICE TEAM READY TO HELP MORE STUDENTS FUEL UP

Over the past several months, the Columbus City Schools Food Services team has provided hundreds of thousands of 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 as schools across the city. Students will be able pick up 5-day meal packs to cover breakfast and lunch for the week.

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).

The pick-up locations are regional and placed at the schools nearest the highest density of student populations. Families will be notified which location to pick up their students' meals based on their address in Infinite Campus.

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.

PLAN NOW FOR BLENDED LEARNING DAYS BACK IN OUR BUILDINGS

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 moved to a blended model, our Parent Portal will be open a special section from August 26 through September 4 for parents/guardians 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).

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.



BOARD OF EDUCATION REVIEWS OPERATIONS PLANS TO OPEN UP

At this week's meeting of the Columbus Board of Education, our District's Operations team presented a greater overview of the work they have been doing to prepare for the start of the school year, including the eventual return of students and staff to our buildings.

Much thought, effort, and planning has gone into determining how best to safely reopen our District when public health conditions allow in-person classes. This includes new transportation procedures, social distancing efforts in classrooms and school buildings, updated cleaning and disinfecting, and COVID-19 tracking and response plans.

You can view the presentation at https://youtu.be/A4_4QEVxwCc?t=1550.

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 is ready to welcome 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 will welcome families and share information about the new learning platforms. Below are the dates and times for the grade levels:

Tuesday, August 25:

- 5:30-6:30 p.m. - Back to School Night for CCS Digital Academy, grades K-2
- 7:00-8:00 p.m. - Back to School Night for CCS Digital Academy, grades 3-5

Thursday, August 27:

- 5:30-6:30 p.m. - Back to School Night for CCS Digital Academy, grades 6-8
- 7:00-8:00 p.m. - Back to School Night for CCS Digital Academy, grades 9-12

Links to the sessions will be shared by the CCS Digital Academy principal. Check your email.

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.

If you know families who would benefit from the information shared in our previous sessions - or if you want to sign up for future Virtual Family Engagement Sessions - visit the "Reopening" Section of our District website at www.ccsok.us/reopening.



ENROLLING OUR YOUNGEST LEARNERS IN VIRTUAL LESSONS:

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.

FREE BACK-TO-SCHOOL 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.

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES FOR BACK TO SCHOOL:

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, families and students have experienced unprecedented changes in school and home life.

Our partners at the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services have created a list of resources that school administrators, parents and caregivers, students and the public can use to find support and respond to mental health needs during these challenging times.

You can access this list at <http://education.ohio.gov/Media/Ed-Connection/Aug-17-2020/Mental-health-resources-for-back-to-school>.

**SPOTLIGHT: TEXTING HELP AND HOPE TO TEENS**

One example of the help that can be found is geared to teen. “Hey I’m Here” is a youth-led community, changing the conversation when it comes to our mental wellness.

The virtual community provides a safe digital space for youth and young adults to share stories, to offer encouragement, and to help others find resources available to them in Ohio.

Throughout Ohio, teenagers can text the keyword “4HOPE” to 741 741 to be connected to a Crisis Counselor.

Any person may need help in coping with a stressful situation. Young people are encouraged to reach out by text to communicate with someone trained to listen and respond in a method that is private, secure, and confidential.

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.