



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

**Update for June 12, 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.

New resources and updates can be found at [www.StaySafeCCS.org](http://www.StaySafeCCS.org).  
Email the CCS Department of Engagement at [Engage@columbus.k12.oh.us](mailto:Engage@columbus.k12.oh.us).

### **IMPORTANT FAMILY SURVEY ON REOPENING OF SCHOOL:**

Columbus City Schools' newly-formed Reopening Task Force is planning for how CCS may welcome back students and staff to open the 2020-2021 school year. An important component of that effort is hearing directly from our families.

### **PLEASE SHARE THIS SURVEY WITH YOUR CCS FAMILIES**

The District has put together a brief 13-question survey for families to provide feedback on students returning to school this fall. It asks about online learning, access to technology, transportation and child care needs, and health concerns.

This School Reopening Family Survey was sent to families directly through phone and email.

To make sure we hear from as many families as possible - in as many languages as possible, and from every sector of our community - please connect with the families you serve to make sure they have completed the survey. If they have not, perhaps you can even offer to help them complete the online version of the survey.

Here's the link to the School Reopening Family Survey: <https://t.co/PLU67X7sAP>.

### **PHASED IN APPROACH TO RESTORING STUDENT ATHLETICS:**

Knowing the desire of many of our scholar athletes to return to the playing field, Columbus City Schools will permit its high school interscholastic athletic teams to resume workouts and team activities beginning July 1.

Teams will follow a phased-in approach that specifies health and safety guidelines and protocols for social distancing, hygiene, and sanitizing. Some of the initial protocols include:

- Pre-workout self-screenings for coaches and student-athletes. Those who are feeling ill or showing symptoms will not be permitted to participate in activities.
- A limit to the number of people at a time during an activity, and a minimum of six feet between each individual must be maintained at all times.
- All coaches must wear face masks during any activity.

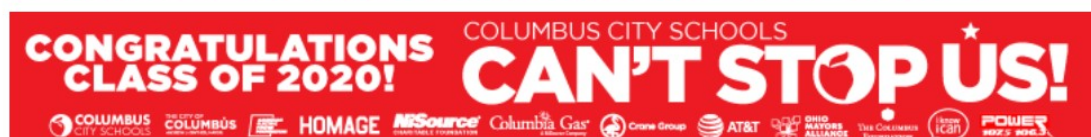


- Every school will have a standard daily practice schedule that permits 90 minutes for an activity followed by cleaning and sanitizing before the next group or team begins.
- Individual drills requiring the use of athletic equipment is permissible, but the equipment must be cleaned between use.
- Water stations will not be permitted and not in use. All students will bring their own water bottles, and water bottles may not be shared.
- Shirts and shoes must be worn at all times.
- Indoor areas such as weight rooms will have 6-foot social distancing markings.

The plan will allow for the safe integration of more participants in team activities in mid-July, as most of the social distancing guidelines and health protocols remain in place.

Student athletes should reach out to their coaches to learn more about the plans and for a schedule of workouts and activities.

### **CAN'T STOP US! SENIOR CELEBRATION GOING STRONG:**



Our Community-wide Celebration of the Columbus City Schools Class of 2020 is going strong, with yard signs, electronic billboards, and radio commercials echoing the student-powered message: “Can’t Stop Us!”

Listen for our Senior Celebration messages airing on the local iHeart Radio and Radio One stations, including Power 107.5, Magic 95.5, Joy 107.1, 97.9 WNCI, 92.3 WCOL, Throwback 105.3 and 106.7 The Beat.

Large electronic billboards located in high-visibility areas throughout the city also carry the celebratory message, along with hundreds of yard signs placed at students’ homes.

The “Can’t Stop Us!” theme of this celebration came out of input from several seniors who said they wanted a message that reflected on how this special graduating class didn’t let the COVID-19 crisis prevent them from achieving success.

The Community-wide Celebration of the Columbus City Schools Class of 2020 is made possible by the generous support of the Columbus Foundation, AT&T, the AEP Foundation, the City of Columbus, Crane Group, Columbia Gas, Homage, the Ohio Mayors Alliance, and I Know I Can.

Over the next two weeks, the Class of 2020 seniors will also be recognized with a special City Hall lighting, plus students will receive a distinctive Senior Celebration Box with unique CCS Class of 2020 “Can’t Stop Us!” t-shirt and other memorable items.

**VIRTUAL GRADUATION CEREMONIES: JUNE 22 - 27**

Our month-long senior class celebration culminates in the District's first-ever series of virtual graduation and completer ceremonies during the week of June 22 through 27.

**Thursday, June 18**

Columbus Downtown High School (Completer Ceremony - 6:30 p.m.)

**Friday, June 19**

Fort Hayes Career Center (Completer Ceremony - 6:30 p.m.)

**Monday, June 22**

Walnut Ridge High School (5:00 p.m.)

Eastmoor Academy (6:30 p.m.)

Fort Hayes Arts and Academic High School (8:00 p.m.)

**Tuesday, June 23**

Linden-McKinley STEM Academy (5:00 p.m.)

Mifflin High School (6:30 p.m.)

Northland High School (8:00 p.m.)

**Wednesday, June 24**

Beechcroft High School (5:00 p.m.)

Briggs High School (6:30 p.m.)

Columbus Alternative High School/CAHS (8:00 p.m.)

**Thursday, June 25**

Independence High School (5:00 p.m.)

Columbus North International (6:30 p.m.)

Marion-Franklin High School (8:00 p.m.)

**Friday, June 26**

South High School (5:00 p.m.)

West High School (6:30 p.m.)

Whetstone High School (8:00 p.m.)

**Saturday, June 27**

Columbus Scioto 6-12 (12:00 p.m.)

Columbus Africentric Early College (1:30 p.m.)

East High School (3:00 p.m.)

Centennial High School (4:30 p.m.)

Each high school's virtual graduation ceremony will be streamed on the Columbus City Schools Facebook page and YouTube channel, aired on the Columbus Educational Access Channel (make sure to check your local TV listings), and also simulcast on WCBE 90.5 FM. The full streaming schedule is at [www.ccsok.us/Page/8079](http://www.ccsok.us/Page/8079).



### **CONTINUED ACCESS TO FOOD DURING THE SUMMER:**

As a reminder, Columbus City Schools' 15 Grab-and-Go Food Sites remain open. Each weekday, students and parents can pick up free breakfasts and lunches for any children 18 years old and under.

At the Community Tables at each site, our partners at Children's Hunger Alliance offer additional take-home meals and several of our community partners are providing additional resources, such as hygiene kits, art activities, and academic materials.

The online map to the CCS Grab-and-Go Food Sites can be found at [www.ccssoh.us/Page/7560](http://www.ccssoh.us/Page/7560).

### **P-EBT CARDS COMING TO HOMES**

As a reminder, all K-12 students registered in Columbus City Schools are eligible for the federal Pandemic-Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program, which provides school-age children with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps) benefits.

All of our K-12 families are eligible for this benefit, even if they have never received food assistance in the past.

According to our partners at the Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services, CCS families will start receiving the P-EBT cards in the mail in mid-June. Families who already receive SNAP will see the new benefits funds added to their existing EBT/Ohio Direction Card.

Our partners at the Ohio Association of Foodbanks have a great website with answers to family questions about the program at [www.OhioPEBT.org](http://www.OhioPEBT.org).

### **MAPS TO MORE SUMMER FOOD LOCATIONS**

Go, Lunch! The Columbus Recreation and Parks' Summer Food Program offers free meals and safe activities for students during the Summer months at several community centers and in partnership with other organizations.

A full listing of sites and times of operations - along with an easy to navigate online map - can be found at [www.golunch.club](http://www.golunch.club).

### **HELP WITH PAYING FOR RENT:**

Our partners at the Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services also want to remind families about the new Rental Assistance Program to provide relief for eligible families who are struggling to meet rent or facing eviction.

The one-time rental assistance payment of up to \$1,500 can help families cover the cost of rent. Download the application and apply today at: [www.jfs.franklincountyohio.gov/PRC](http://www.jfs.franklincountyohio.gov/PRC).



### **FREE COVID-19 TESTING FROM COLUMBUS PUBLIC HEALTH:**

Our partners at Columbus Public Health are now offering free, drive-thru COVID-19 testing in partnership with Mount Carmel, Ohio Health and The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.

Anyone in the community with symptoms can now get a free test, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Columbus Public Health (240 Parsons Ave.).

If you're sick, it's important to get a test as soon as possible to protect yourself, your loved ones and the community. Here's what else you need to do know about COVID-19 testing at Columbus Public Health:

- You don't need health insurance to get a free test.
- You don't need a doctor's referral, but appointments are recommended by calling 614-645-1519 to register for drive-thru or walk-up testing.
- The test is a nasal swab that will be administered by a trained technician. It won't hurt, but it might be uncomfortable.

If you test positive for COVID-19, a public health employee will call you and ask questions about where you have been and who you have been in close contact with. This is called contact tracing, and the information gathered is only used to contact potential cases so they can be quarantined to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

In addition to Columbus Public Health, nine other community sites throughout Columbus are also offering free COVID-19 testing. You can find a list of test sites by visiting [www.columbus.gov/coronavirus](http://www.columbus.gov/coronavirus).

### **MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO FIND CHILD CARE:**

As child care providers begin to reopen and parents seek out care so they can return to work, our partners at Future Ready Columbus are helping to expand opportunities for more families to find classrooms.

With support from the Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services, eight local child care centers are adding classrooms for infants, toddlers and preschool-aged children as part of the Publicly Funded Child Care program. The grant recipients are:

- Bloom Early Learning Education (184 E. Fifth Ave., 43215)
- Columbus Early Learning Centers – Eastside (240 N. Champion Ave., 43203)
- Little Disciples Learning Center (4099 Karl Road, 43224)
- Little Gems Learning Place, LLC. (2030 Leonard Ave., 43219)
- North Branch YMCA (1640 Sandalwood Place, 43229)
- Start Fresh Learning Academy (1149 Parsons Ave., 43206)
- Starting Point Learning Center, LLC. (2533 Lockbourne Rd., 43207)
- South Side Learning and Development Center (280 Reeb Ave., 43207)



### **HELP TO FIND THE RIGHT CHILD CARE FOR YOU**

Looking for child care? Our partners at Action for Children can help your family find care that meets your family's specific needs.

Schedule a time to speak with someone at Action for Children by calling 614-224-0222 or visit [www.actionforchildren.org](http://www.actionforchildren.org) to submit a child care request online or conduct your own search on an easy-to-use interactive map.

### **CELEBRATING DIVERSITY DURING PRIDE MONTH:**

Celebrating diversity! Columbus City Schools honors Pride Month and affirms our continued commitment to providing an environment in which everyone can learn, work, and live with dignity and respect.

Superintendent Dixon launched our month of celebrating diversity with a special message for our LGBTQ+ students and families. Watch her message here: <https://youtu.be/1pKHig9cRAQ>.

### **OBAMA RECOGNIZES CCS STUDENT'S INSPIRING MESSAGE:**

Columbus City Schools graduating senior Playon Patrick had the honor of introducing former President Barack Obama ahead of a national My Brother's Keeper Town Hall meeting.

The former president praised Playon for his powerful reading of a self-written poem and his inspiring message to young people and adults in the wake of national protests.

You can watch Playon's introduction at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=FpFbBuZi2sM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FpFbBuZi2sM).

### **SHARE YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION UPDATES:**

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).

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

This health emergency is affecting EVERY person, household, and business in the Columbus community, so 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.

**Remember: Updates on Columbus City Schools' COVID-19 Response can be found at [www.StaySafeCCS.org](http://www.StaySafeCCS.org).**