



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

Update for September 4, 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.

ARE YOU READY? FIRST DAY OF CLASSES JUST DAYS AWAY:

The Labor Day weekend marks the final days before it's officially Back to School. Classes in Columbus City Schools begin Tuesday, September 8.

We're starting the 2020-2021 school year completely virtual. That's something completely new for our families and for our staff, which means we all have a few extra steps to make sure our students are ready for class on day one.

GEAR UP! DO YOU HAVE YOUR CHROMEBOOK?



By now, every family, including the families of children enrolled in the new CCS Digital Academy, should have received information from their child's home school on coming to the building to pick up instructional materials, Chromebooks (if needed), band instruments, and more

If your family (or the families you serve) have not been to their child's school and are in need of a Chromebook, please contact your child's principal (best to use email). We have posted a full list of the Gear Up/Pick Up dates on our website.

Chromebook distribution dates can be found at www.ccssoh.us/Page/8564.

Several principals have posted back-to-school information on their school websites. Make sure your family visits these individual school websites. The full list is at www.ccssoh.us/domain/173.

Don't forget to charge your Chromebook each night. Although Chromebooks are very efficient and require less power than a standard laptop, they likely will need charged daily. It's a good idea to charge the Chromebook overnight and you should get a day's worth of instruction on a single charge. You can always check the battery's charge in the bottom right corner in the clock area by clicking the battery icon.

When you power up the Chromebook and connect to Wi-Fi, you will then be required to sign in, using your student's District issued ID number, email, and your student's birthdate.


If you need help with using a Chromebook, controlling the settings, or accessing wi-fi, we have several easy-to-read guides and videos at www.ccssoh.us/Page/8354.



FUEL UP! DO YOU KNOW WHERE TO GET HEALTHY MEALS?

Starting Wednesday, September 9, Columbus City Schools will open 44 Fuel Up Food Sites at schools across the city, where families can grab-and-go 5-day meal packs for each child under the age of 18 to cover breakfast and lunch for a week.

CCS families have been 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). Information about your Fuel Up Food Site assignment should have come by email or automated phone call earlier this week.

 CCS STUDENT MEAL ACCESS SITES STUDENTS WILL BE ASSIGNED A LOCATION TO GET MEALS		
<p><u>Region 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> West High School Wedgewood Middle School Starling K-8 Avondale Elementary Burroughs Elementary Highland Elementary Sullivant Elementary West Broad Elementary West Mound Elementary 	<p><u>Region 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independence High School Johnson Park Middle School Sherwood Middle School Easthaven Elementary Leawood Elementary Woodcrest Elementary 	<p><u>Region 3</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South High School Buckeye Middle School Cedarwood Elementary East Columbus Elementary Lincoln Park Elementary Livingston Elementary Trevitt Elementary Watkins Elementary
<p><u>Region 4</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centennial High School Columbus Global Academy Como Elementary Cranbrook Elementary Indianola K-8 Salem Elementary Weinland Park Elementary 	<p><u>Region 5</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beechcroft High School Medina Middle School Mifflin Middle School Woodward Park Middle School Woodward Park @ Walden Devonshire Elementary Innis Elementary Northtowne Elementary 	<p><u>Region 6</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 - items such as apple sauce, cereal, fruit cups, cheese sticks, raisins, juice box, veggie cups, and granola that do not require refrigeration - to assure food safety. If desired, students will have the option of taking a 5-day box of milk (which would require refrigeration).

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

A map of the Fuel Up Food Site locations can be found at www.ccsosoh.us/Page/8603.

This Fuel Up Food Service is open to ALL families in our Columbus community (not just families registered in CCS). Let's make sure every child in our city has access to healthy food, so please share this information.



LOG ON! ARE YOU ABLE TO ACCESS THE PARENT PORTAL?

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

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 our Virtual Family Engagement Sessions before the start of classes specifically to using the Parent Portal.

Watch our Virtual Family Engagement Session on how to access and use the Parent Portal by visiting https://youtu.be/D3WL_ig0cYI.

Parents will be asked to track their student's daily attendance in the Parent Portal. You'll find this information on the "Today" tab inside the Parent Portal.

OTHER WAYS TO ACCESS THE PARENT PORTAL

If a parent/guardian still 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.

SIGN ON! DO YOU REMEMBER HOW TO GET INTO CLEVER?

Clever is the web-based service Columbus City Schools uses to manage different learning applications. Think of it as a virtual backpack - a one-stop-spot where students can link to all of the online educational tools they need, instead of having to search all over the internet. It's also the place where students can access their teachers' Google Classroom and assignments.

Most of our students have used Clever before. Clever uses a single-sign-on of the student's District issued ID number, email, and birthdate. **To log in to Clever, go to clever.com/in/columbuscity.**

To show you how to help a student log in to Clever, one of our Family Ambassadors gave a quick demonstration - along with some encouraging words of wisdom and tips for parents. To watch her video on logging into Clever, visit our Facebook Live at: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=757253248407418&extid=cgwql0Hg69wUvUNa>



LINK UP! DO YOU KNOW WHO'S OFFERING HELP?

Our Virtual Family Engagement Sessions on Tuesday and Thursday evenings continue to draw large numbers of families, and we've been working to engage even more families in these final days leading up to the start of classes.



Over the past week, the Department of Engagement has hosted a series of "Link Up Mini Virtual Family Engagement Sessions" on Facebook Live- 20-minute special sessions with tips, tools, and advice on getting ready for the start of school.

In one session, we walked parents through the login process on Cleaver as well as shared tips on setting up an engaging educational space at home for your child. Another session reminded parents of all the community supports that are available, especially for child care.

Viewers of another session learned about help for New American and immigrant families. And we closed with words of encouragement from one of our high school students to her fellow classmates. We also had special messages from our partners at City Year, the Dowd Educational Center, and the Columbus Metropolitan Library.

You can watch our Mini Virtual Family Engagement Sessions at www.ccssoh.us/Page/8609.

NUMBERS TO CALL IF YOU NEED ANSWERS:

We've created a special section on the Columbus City Schools website with links to lots of information on the Reopening of our schools. Visit www.ccssoh.us/reopening. Below are several numbers to keep handy:

- **Technology Help Desk: 614-365-8425**
Call this number if you have questions about technology - such as trouble with a student's Chromebook, accessing Clever, or logging into an email account.
- **Health Services: 614-365-8524**
Call this number if you have question about COVID-19, need information from a school nurse, or are unsure about vaccination information.
- **Translation Services: 614-365-8802**
Call if you need help accessing information in another language. The interpreters in our Language Assistance Center can help. Below are specific numbers to our District top-five non-English languages:
 - Spanish: 614-365-5118
 - Somali: 614-365-8972
 - Nepali: 614-365-3105
 - French: 614-365-5327
 - Arabic: 614-365-6920
- **Customer Relations: 614-365-8888**
Call this number if you have not been able to connect with your school principal or main office or need assistance connecting with other departments across the District.



STEP UP! COMMUNITY PARTNERS PROVIDE HELP DURING THE DAY AT LEARNING EXTENSION CENTERS:



Columbus City Schools is partnering with several community organizations - including many of our city's faith-based partners - on the creation of "Learning Extension Centers" - safe, adult-supervised spaces where students can feel supported while learning virtually and parents can feel comforted knowing that their child is in a secure, welcoming environment during the day.

At these Learning Extension Centers, students will have access to internet, learning devices, and school supplies to assist them in remote learning (if they need more than the Chromebook the District is supplying).

Staff at the centers will be able to assist students in accessing our CCS Remote Learning platforms. And in many LEC locations, students will be able to get meals and "after-school" type activities.

The idea for LECs came out of our ongoing conversations with parents, who often shared concerns about leaving younger students unsupervised at home during the school day if parents/family members weren't able to stay with them.

Our partners at Columbus Recreation and Parks will host Active Learning Points at many community centers, where students can bring their computer – or access a computer if needed – to complete and get assistance with schoolwork. The department also will have Physical Activity Sites where kids can participate in structured activities to help them stay active.

Learning Extension Centers are not run by Columbus City Schools, but we are working to connect families and schools with LEC's closest to them. We are also providing training to LEC staff so they know how to help students (and parents) on getting online and into our Remote Learning platforms.

We are also helping LECs with information about the State's new Temporary Pandemic School Age Child Care license, which many of the sites will need to ensure they are safely caring for students during the day.

More than 100 organizations have stepped up and offered to host Learning Extension Centers throughout the city. To learn about the LECs in your neighborhood, families should contact their children's principals; many of them have had conversations with the organizations hosting Learning Extension Centers close to the schools.

A full list of Learning Extension Centers will be available at www.ccsok.us/reopening.

Each Learning Extension Center will have their own ways to sign up and register. Before you go, make sure to ask if there is any information you need to bring the first time you visit. And remember, space will be limited.



RISE UP! CELEBRATE THE FIRST DAY OF CLASSES:

Join Columbus City Schools as we celebrate Back to School and the start of classes for the 2020-2021 school year.



In Columbus City Schools, we are not letting the COVID-19 crisis hold us down or hold our students back. We are ready to RISE UP and help all of our students LIVE UP to great expectations... which is why we need all of our community to continue providing support.

Help us make the first day of school a positive experience, even though we know it's going to present some challenges. Take a moment to go on your Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram and post a picture and positive message for our students.

Make sure you add the hashtag #RiseUpCCS.

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.**