



April 23, 2020

College Community Families,

I hope this letter finds your family healthy and optimistic. We understand the pressures that come with supporting the voluntary and required continuous learning experiences that teachers are providing to students, in addition to the many other difficulties that this health crisis has brought upon our community. We will continue to monitor and refine our efforts with continuous learning while we work to serve you in this unprecedented situation. Thank you for all that you are doing to provide stability at home during this time.

An archive of previous communications and current information related this school closure can be found on our website in a section titled "COVID-19 (Coronavirus) UPDATES" <http://www.prairiepride.org/COVID19/>

The extension of the school closure and the cancelation of spring activities was very difficult news for us all to hear. As educators, students define our purpose and our daily work. We are in the process of adjusting to a new way of working with students and are finding great success, but we certainly long for the return to the familiar.

The purpose of this week's communication is to provide a few updates on closure-related topics of interest to our families and community.

- CCSD received approval for our model of Continuous Learning through the Iowa Department of Education. This plan was shared with you in a communication on the afternoon of Friday, April 17. It is also posted on the district website at the link above. As a reminder, our Continuous Learning Plan will not require us to make up missed days in the summer months and our school year will end as scheduled on June 4, 2020.
- In her press conference on Friday, April 17, Governor Reynolds mentioned the possibility of adjusting the start date of the 2020-2021 school year. While we will review this option carefully as a district, operational logistics and resources may make starting earlier than August 24th cost prohibitive. We are considering how a different experience in the first weeks of school in the fall could assist our students in reintegrating after this extended time away from school.
- There are multiple activities in the spring and summer months that will be affected by the school closure. As decisions are made, school administrators and teachers will communicate plans for these activities to the students and families who are impacted.
- As our weather improves, we want to remind everyone that our campus facilities, both inside and outdoors, are closed. This includes the playgrounds, fields, and tennis courts, at all schools. This closure will remain in effect until further notice.
- We are currently planning for ways for students to gather personal items from the school while prioritizing the health of all. More information will be shared soon. We will follow the guidance of local and state health officials and the Governor's Office as we make our decisions.
- Grab N Go meals will be served through the last official day of the school year, June 4. We will investigate options for additional funding to extend our ability to provide meals into the summer. Additionally, while we would like to serve meals in all of our communities, we are only able to provide mobile meal sites in areas approved by the federal government. Therefore, we do not have meal sites in Swisher, Shueyville, Walford and Fairfax because sites in these communities were not approved when we applied. We are pleased to be providing this service and distributing over 3,000 meals per day at our seven sites. **Please note: Meals will not be served on Monday, May 4.**
- Thank you to our community partners who are helping us distribute copies of learning materials for PK-8 students. Materials are available at the following locations:
 - **All CCSD-sponsored meal sites**
 - **Cedar Rapids:** Kirkwood Estates Mobile Home Park Office, 615 Miller Avenue Drive Southwest
 - **Cedar Rapids:** Cedar Valley Townhomes Office, 3000 J Street Southwest
 - **Cedar Rapids:** ASAC Heart of Iowa Office, 4050 Bowling Street Southwest
 - **Cedar Rapids:** Prairie Reserve Apartments Office, 6610 College Park Court Southwest

- **Fairfax:** Casey's General Store, 65 Williams Boulevard
- **Walford:** BP Gas Station, 200 Highway 151 East
- **Swisher and Shueyville:** BP Gas Station, 2722 120th Street / Interstate 380 Exit 10
- In addition to maintaining the thorough cleaning processes described in previous communications, we are screening all employees and volunteers that are working on campus and at meal sites to monitor for COVID-19 symptoms.
- We are currently maintaining ECC programming during this extended school closure period in service to our families who are part of the essential workforce. We are partnering with leaders of local agencies to determine if there is a need for daycare for their employees' children and stand ready to support our community if needed. Multiple procedures at ECC have changed significantly over the past several weeks. We are committed to providing a healthy, nurturing, and stable environment for children in need of daycare.

I sincerely hope that all families have directly experienced the care and concern that our teachers have for our students. Whether it is seeing the joy on your young child's face when they connect with their classmates online, your son or daughter looking forward to viewing the video lessons provided by their teachers each week, or your family appreciating the daily routine of picking up meals, we all hope that these small moments are providing some comfort during this uncertain time. Thank you, as always, for your continued support of College Community Schools!

In Service,

Doug Wheeler, PhD
Superintendent of Schools