



## School Information and Updates Friday, January 8, 2021

### **WEATHER CANCELLATIONS, DELAYS AND EARLY OUTS**

As part of the state COVID-19 response, the state has temporarily allowed the use of online learning during weather days to eliminate the need to make up days lost due to weather. How to use this allowance is a local decision, based on local circumstances.

College Community Schools continue to believe that we should maximize onsite instructional days, especially given the number of onsite days lost over the past 10 months. Forgiving days is only considered when these attendance days pose unusual challenges for families or district operations. Therefore, our default intention is to make up any weather-related cancellation days at the end of the year. Therefore, "day-of cancellations" will be made up as they have been in the past. The School Calendar indicates June 2-4 and June 7-10 to be reserved for weather make-up days and ask staff and families to account for these days in summer planning should school need to occur.

Using online (at-home) learning models to replace instructional days lost due to weather-related cancellations will be based on readiness for ALL students to participate in online learning on that day. Readiness mainly includes the access of students to the things they need at home for an online (at-home day) such as their device or materials needed for the day.

Unless we have another winter with an unusually high number of lost days (like 2018-2019), using online (at home) learning models to replace instructional days lost due to weather-related cancellations will be considered only in the following cases:

- When the forecast is strong enough to make the cancellation the day before while students and staff are still in school and can collect needed materials. These will likely be weather alerts calling for extreme cold temperatures.
- When weather cancellations extend beyond one day consecutively.

Again, this provision is currently for this school year only; therefore, due to the number of onsite days already missed and the uncertainty of this practice continuing beyond this academic year, we will utilize this flexibility with good judgement.

During the winter season, be mindful that delays and cancellations are probable. As early as possible, weather and road condition information is gathered from various sources, including city, county, state agencies, meteorologists, and personal inspection by school personnel. The safety of our students and employees is the overriding, deciding factor when cancelling or delaying school. Superintendents decide whether schools will open but it is always a parent/guardian decision whether you want your child to attend that day.

College Community is a district that covers 137 square miles so road conditions will vary from one location to another within the district. Many of our families live on secondary roads which

are different from city streets and highways. Your patience will be appreciated as our bus drivers are told to use extreme caution when road conditions are poor which means students may arrive home later than normal.

**Emergency closing, delays and early outs will be communicated through the following:**

- Mass notification system (voice, text & email) to all district parents starting at 5:30 AM the day of the closing.
- District Website: [www.crprairie.org](http://www.crprairie.org) (red alert bar at the top of the page)
- District Facebook: @ College Community School District
- District Twitter: @prairie\_pride

**We notify the following television stations:**

- KCRG (Channel 9)
- KGAN (Channel 2)
- KWWL (Channel 7)

**ECC (Early Childhood Center):** will follow their procedures regarding weather related information and notifications. Please visit their website for timely information including their procedures. Visit <https://ecc.crprairie.org/> as well as KCRG (Channel 9), KGAN (Channel 2), KWWL (Channel 7), as well as teacher generated BLOOMZ posts.

**ATHLETIC SPECTATOR ANNOUNCEMENT**

In response to the [Governor's proclamation on January 7, 2021](#) lifting spectator limitations, the Prairie Activity offices will thoughtfully and carefully examine our current winter covid spectator expectations. We will consider the safety of our students impacted and current processes.

At this time and until further notice, including events on January 8th and 9th, our current spectator limitation of household members only will remain in effect. We appreciate your patience as we navigate changing guidance related to athletic events in the context of targeted mitigation strategies to enhance student and spectator safety during the pandemic.

**COVID POSITIVITY RATES, QUARANTINE, AND ABSENTEEISM**

Information about the current number of students and staff that have tested positive or are in quarantine continues to be updated [at this link](#). These numbers are updated by 4:00 on Thursdays. Rates of student absenteeism are also reported here daily. This is one of the many pieces of information that we analyze in determining the appropriate learning model for schools (onsite, online learning at home, or hybrid).

College Community also reports the number of staff and students in quarantine and testing positive for COVID-19 weekly to the Iowa Department of Education.

## **SECOND SEMESTER BUSING INFORMATION**

The transportation department is busy preparing routes for the second semester. We will be releasing updated busing information on **Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>**. Please look at your Portal account prior to Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> to verify your student's busing. We apologize for the many changes this school year. Driver shortages and reduced student counts have forced us to make many adjustments.

- All buses will continue to disinfect between every route.
- Students and staff will still be required to wear masks while on the bus.
- Students will have an assigned seat and must sit in it at all times.
- Siblings will be required to sit together on the bus.
- There will be no eating or drinking allowed on the bus.

Contact the Transportation Department at 848-5204 if you have any questions.

## **FOOD AND NUTRITION**

**January 8th - 29th:** Curbside meals will be available Monday-Friday 10:30AM-11:30AM from the west staff parking lot drive through at Prairie Hill Elementary. Meals will be available for daily or weekly pick up for virtual and hybrid students. (Pick up will not be available on January 18th- No school.)

For weekly meal pick up, please schedule ahead by calling or emailing Food and Nutrition at 319-848-5337 or [vscott@crprairie.org](mailto:vscott@crprairie.org) or [mmiddleton@crprairie.org](mailto:mmiddleton@crprairie.org).

If you are not able to pick up at the scheduled time, we may be able to make arrangements to accommodate your needs. If you do not have access to the necessary equipment to cook frozen meals, we can make accommodations to the meals we provide to your children.