



School Information and Updates

Thursday, January 27 , 2022

WINTER WEATHER - LOW TEMPERATURES

There are numerous factors to consider when making weather decisions. Below are metrics used across the metro area for delays and cancellations due to low temperatures:

When temps fall at or below -15 actual temperature OR -30 windchill/windchill warning delays and cancellations are examined. Since there is a wide variation between weather apps and the news, I use the National Weather Service/NOAA temps and models. We examine temps in one town in the south end of our district and Cedar Rapids, making the decision based off of the colder of the two. If the temps are forecasted to rise by 9:00 AM, we delay, if not, we will often cancel. Depending on the model, I will also look at temps within a degree or two to these targets in context of other weather factors. These decisions for weather are driven by impacts to students using our transportation.

LATER START TIME FOR K-4 AND HIGH SCHOOL EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 7, 2022

Due to ongoing challenges with transportation impacting operations, we are making a last resort decision to **change start times for PK-4 buildings and the high school effective February 7, 2022 through the remainder of the year**. Start times will be pushed back 15 minutes for those impacted buildings. We are implementing this tough and difficult decision to help mitigate the potential of closures or extensive delays due to bus driver shortages. Please [click here](#) for the full description, including rationale and potential FAQs.

STUDENT ISOLATION PERIOD AND COVID-19 ILLNESS NOTIFICATION

Students who are positive for COVID-19 will continue to be required to stay home from school for the ten-day isolation period. Guidance from public health departments requires individuals who are positive to wear masks upon ending isolation prior to ten days and continuous masking is not possible in the school setting throughout the day.

As always, students should stay home if they are ill. Students with vomiting, diarrhea, or a fever above 100.4 should not attend school for 24 hours after these symptoms subside.

Parents of PK-4th grade students will be notified when there is a positive case of COVID-19 in their student's homeroom classroom. Due to the configuration of classes in the 5-12 grades, the best source of data related to COVID-19 positivity and absence rates within the school is available [at this link](#).

Public health officials encourage us all to be mindful that there is risk of exposure to COVID-19 across all home, community, and school environments. If you have questions about whether or not to keep your student out of school because of a potential COVID-19 exposure, call your family doctor or the school nurse.

LUNCH CARD/ID CARD REPLACEMENTS

Students will be given a student ID badge at the beginning of the year and be provided one replacement card each semester at no charge. If more than one replacement card is required, the student will be charged \$3.00 for the replacement card.

PRAIRIE CARES FOOD BOXES

Last week the Prairie Cares Team started their food box distribution from Prairie High School. We had an overwhelming response with 70 food box requests in the first week. Boxes can be requested by Prairie families Fridays-Mondays [at this link](#) and can be picked up at the high school on Thursdays from 4:00-6:30. We are in need of adult volunteers during this time to hand our boxes: [Sign up here](#) and toiletry donations: [Sign up here](#). Thanks to all the students, staff and community members who have helped to support this program!

PRELIMINARY ENROLLMENT NOW OPEN

Preliminary Enrollment for Prairie Hawks Preschool, Kindergarten, and AK is now open.

- If your child will be 4 years old by September 15, 2022, they are eligible to enroll in preschool for the 2022-2023 school year.

[4 Year Old Preschool Application](#)

- If your child will be 5 years old by September 15, 2022, they are eligible to enroll in Kindergarten or AK for the 2022-2023 school year.

[Preliminary Registration for AK/Kindergarten](#)

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT?

The College Community School District is looking for dedicated people who want to serve their community and our students. Our mission, Success for All, is embraced by our passionate employees who are dedicated to guiding every student on a pathway to success. If you have world-class talent and believe in our mission, then we want to hear from you!

[Click here](#) to check out the employment opportunities at College Community Schools.