



## School Information and Updates

**Friday, December 1, 2023**

### **School Weather Cancellations - Delays - Notifications**

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 canceling 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.

For early morning delays/cancellations, College Community makes every effort to notify parents around 5:30 AM.

**Communication:** College Community Schools will communicate the following information to parents and staff as follows:

- **District Website:** The CCSD will post cancellations, delays, early outs, and other important announcements on the district homepage, [www.crprairie.org](http://www.crprairie.org). Check for the red banner.
- **District Notification:** The College Community School District utilizes a notification service for parental and staff outreach for emergency broadcasts. The system will place a phone call, text message and email to parents, guardians and staff in the event of a safety or weather related issue. You will receive a message from 319-848-5200 indicating the alert.
- **Social Media:** Posts will also be shared on the district's Facebook and Twitter accounts, however the most up-to-date and accurate communication will be sent to families via school messenger.
- **Local Media:** In addition to direct notifications, local media outlets will be contacted as time allows.

## **Attendance Message**

Thank you, families, for **FANTASTIC** improvement in attendance in the month of November!

Last year, Prairie students missed a total of 6,290 days during the month of November.

This year, Prairie students missed a total of 4,932 days.

**That's 1,358 MORE DAYS attended in November this year than last year.**

Let's keep this trend going as we roll into a couple of months that can have high rates of absenteeism: December and January!

In the next few days, Building Facilitators and Deans will be contacting parents via email if one or more students within the family have missed 10% or more of school time. Research shows that it's very common for students and their parents to underestimate absences and attendance rates can improve simply by sharing the amount of missed school time with families.

If your student is having difficulty with consistent school attendance, we want to help! Please reach out to your school's principal, dean, building facilitator, or counselor. Their contact information is [linked here](#).

Attend today, achieve tomorrow!

## **Hard Surface Busing Information Now Available**

Hard surface busing information is now available. Please check your Portal account for updated information listed below your daily bus schedule. Only routes that travel on gravel roads will have hard surface busing information. Communication will be released from the District on days that the weather requires us to utilize these routes.

Please contact the Transportation Department with any questions that you might have, 319-848-5204.

## **Sign up for Prairie Backpack**

Sign up for Prairie Backpack! Prairie Backpack is College Community's "green" approach to distributing and posting informational flyers to parents and our school community. If you would like to be notified of school sponsored activities and community opportunities, then sign up today. After signing up you will be notified when new flyers have been added. The sign up is located at the bottom of the Prairie Backpack page. [Click here](#) to sign up!

## **Winter Sports Season Underway**

Prairie's winter sports season is now underway! For a complete schedule of events for our girls and boys basketball, girls and boys wrestling, girls and boys bowling and boys swimming, please click on the following link: [Click here](#) for the schedule of events.

## **Key Club Toy Drive for WayPoint**

Prairie Key Club is proud to partner with Kennedy Key Club to put on a Toy Drive to support Waypoint in Cedar Rapids. Waypoint provides holiday gifts to families who may be experiencing homelessness, poverty, or domestic violence. Last year, Waypoint provided over 400 children ages 0-12 with gifts. Gifts must be new. Please consider donating a gift to help make a positive difference for our fellow community members.

Prairie High School will be collecting donations in the guidance office and library from November 28th - December 11th. Additional gift ideas may be found at this link at well: [DreamList.com/for/waypointtoydrive](https://www.DreamList.com/for/waypointtoydrive)

If you have any questions or concerns please email Ella Nove at [enove1@crprairie.org](mailto:enove1@crprairie.org).