

March 26, 2020

College Community Families,



Thank you for your ongoing patience and trust as we work through this school closure. We know our families are experiencing a variety of challenges and that these uncertain times can take a toll. We are committed to providing you with timely and accurate information. We are hopeful that through our collective efforts locally and statewide, we will be able to return to school on April 13th.

In my last communication to you, I wrote about three priorities for our school district as we move forward. This letter provides an update on those priorities.

Priority #1: Support our students, families, staff, and our greater community through this crisis.

- The teaching and administrative staff of every Prairie school met virtually on Wednesday, March 25, to mobilize for student support. Parents should expect phone calls from teachers this week, as well as information about learning opportunities that can be done at home. Teachers are equipped to provide guidance to you to support your children's academic learning and to support their social-emotional needs. If your family does not hear from a school staff member personally this week, please contact your child's principal so that any inaccurate contact information can be corrected.
- Additional resources are available for families from Grant Wood Area Education Agency's [Carpool Lane](#) website.
- Printed learning activities, recommended by CCSD teachers, are available at all meal sites except the Grant Elementary and Hoover Elementary locations, as these sites are available for our students but sponsored by Cedar Rapids Community Schools.
- **Regardless of income level**, free breakfast and lunch for any child 18 years or under is available Monday through Friday until further notice. Thankfully, we were approved by the federal government to expand locations from our original list. Meal locations and times are [available at this link](#). If you cannot reach one of the sites due to transportation issues, please call 319.848.5337 to speak with someone or leave a voicemail message. We will do our best to provide new sites.
- Iowa's annual academic test, the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP), is suspended until further notice.
- District leaders are collaborating with the Iowa Department of Education to address how the school closure impacts a variety of topics that are of particular concern for high school students including graduation requirements, credit recovery, Advanced Placement courses, and concurrent enrollment courses. We will provide additional information to families who are affected once decisions have been made.
- Additional information on the pandemic response at the state, national, and international levels is available here:
 - For specific questions about COVID-19 or help with basic resources, call **211**.
 - [Iowa Department of Public Health](#)
 - [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
 - [World Health Organization](#)

Priority #2: Follow the guidance of health officials to do our part as an organization in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

- We are continuing to highly restrict building access and are implementing intensive sanitizing practices. As we prepare for reopening, school buildings will be resanitized.
- We are relying on our employees and volunteers from our staff to help with childcare, meal preparation, and meal distribution. This reduces the number of individuals involved and, therefore, reduces the risk of the spread of COVID-19. If we experience a shortage in volunteers, we will reach out to our families to ask for help. Any volunteers must be registered and the registration form is available [here](#).

Priority #3: Operation of childcare facilities.

- We are in the process of partnering with local leaders of essential service agencies to determine if there is a need for daycare for their employees' children and stand ready to support our community if needed.

- Our Early Childhood Center continues to operate to support families who need childcare services and our ECC employees. Several strict precautionary measures are in place in our ECC program including:
 - Specialized drop-off and pick-up procedures.
 - Regular symptom screening for children and employees.
 - Sanitization procedures across all settings through the day.
 - Reduction in both group size and intermingling of children across classrooms.
 - Enforcement of the guidance from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Governor Reynolds on self-quarantining for children and employees.
 - Ongoing communication with local agencies that provide oversight of childcare services.

College Community School District continues to be a dedicated part of the prevention, response, and recovery efforts. We are so appreciative of the many members of the Prairie family who are on the front lines of managing this crisis in our community.

In Service,

Doug Wheeler, PhD
Superintendent of Schools