



May 21, 2020

College Community Families,

We are hopeful that you find this information to be useful and timely as we continue our school closure. As the Governor continues to modify existing restrictions, we will do our best to respond to those modifications quickly and with a focus on accuracy. When modifications are released from the Governor's Office to the public, we have no prior notification of the content or area of impact. We appreciate the patience our families have displayed while we work to respond to changing guidance and proclamations.

This week's update contains information about our plan for continued closure and some reopening of school facilities.

- During her most recent press conference, Governor Reynolds shared her decision to open additional businesses, venues, and agencies. We are closely monitoring these recommendations and how they affect our school system directly and indirectly. We have a number of local groups, students, district patrons, and community members that use our facilities during all seasons that are not school-sponsored but are a valuable part of our district and larger community. **The schools and outdoor facilities of College Community will continue to be closed until further notice and we will provide you with timely updates about changes.** Our campus closure continues to include ALL of our fields, playgrounds, fitness facilities, and courts for groups of any size. We appreciate your cooperation.
- We will prioritize planning around in-season school-sponsored events, athletics, and fine arts activities. Community use of school facilities, including any youth activities/clubs, are not authorized to access school facilities until further notice as we monitor the Governor's guidance and adjust our practices accordingly.
- The Iowa Department of Education, in collaboration with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA), and the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union (IGHSAU), recently provided specific guidance for the baseball and softball season. They are allowing practices to begin on June 1 and games after June 15. Players, coaches, and spectators should anticipate significant precautionary measures in alignment with the advice of local and state health experts.
- Practice and conditioning for in-season athletes (high school baseball and softball) shall only occur at specified times and under the direct supervision of the team's coach.
- The Governor's latest guidance does not include approval for practices, conditioning, fine arts activities, camps, and other related events for out of season activities. Therefore, the use of CCSD facilities is not approved for these purposes through at least after July 1. Again, we are closely monitoring the Governor's proclamations and further guidance will be forthcoming.
- Out of an abundance of caution and due to the ongoing changing circumstances of the pandemic, we are not scheduling rentals of indoor facilities (performing arts areas, gyms, etc.) through August 30th. Outdoor rentals are canceled through at least July 1.
- Reopening of our facilities will only occur with close and careful interpretation and enforcement of the guidance from the Governor's office, the Iowa Department of Public Health, and Linn County Public Health. It is in our district's and community's best interest to be a part of the ongoing mitigation efforts..
- During the period of our school closure, we have kept our senior class informed of our efforts with providing a commencement ceremony. Our goal continues to be providing each graduate and their parents the opportunity to have their 'moment' when they hear their name read, to walk the stage, and receive their diploma. We have developed various plans to achieve this goal. The current plan includes several smaller, highly-modified commencement ceremonies to occur on Saturday, June 27, on the Prairie campus.

**These updates were provided last week but are still important reminders for the week ahead:**

- For our incoming Kindergarten and Alternative Kindergarten families: There are no kindergarten or AK round up events this year. There is still, however, important health-related paperwork that must be completed for children to start school. Please be on the lookout for these health forms in the mail with directions for returning them to us.

- We continue to receive additional guidance from the Iowa Department of Education regarding the requirements for our Return to Learn plan. We are developing plans for the fall for all possible scenarios as we continue to learn new information day-to-day.
- **A reminder about our Grab N Go Meals program: No meals will be served on Monday, May 25 (Memorial Day) and the final day for meals is our last official day of school, Thursday, June 4.**
- If your child has an existing health condition for which they may need additional care when we return to school in the fall, please email your school nurse. It is never too early to start communicating about your son or daughter's anticipated medical needs for the year ahead, especially during these uncertain times.. As our nurses prepare for returning to school with various new procedures and protocols in place related to COVID-19 for all students and staff, their advanced knowledge of your child's specific health needs will allow us to be more fully prepared. Email addresses for all school nurses are available on the district website. You may also call your school office to leave a message or call the District Office at 319.848.5200 to speak with someone directly.

Thank you all for your ongoing support of the students and staff of College Community Schools!

In Service,

Doug Wheeler, PhD  
Superintendent of Schools