



School Information and Updates

Monday, October 5, 2020

CALENDAR CHANGES

To accommodate changing the start date of school due to the Derecho, in August the Board approved a calendar modification to convert the December 7th and April 19th Professional Learning / NO STUDENT days to student contact days and to extend the school year by three days.

The District has received a waiver for hours missed due to the Derecho. The Board has voted to return these days (12/7 and 4/19) to Professional Learning / NO STUDENT days as part of this waiver. There will be no school on 12/7 and 4/19 for professional learning as approved in the original calendar for this school year.

Any additional contact day forgiveness will be considered in the Spring once the needs for calendar impacts due to COVID or additional severe weather is better established. The last day of school for students will be June 4 which includes a 4-hour early release. [Click here](#) for the updated calendar.

NEW QUARANTINE GUIDANCE

On Tuesday, September 29, the Iowa Department of Public Health and Linn County Public Health issued new guidance for schools related to contact tracing and quarantining of students who have been exposed COVID-19 at school. Previously, any student who was in "close contact" during the infectious period of a person who tested positive for COVID-19 would need to stay home from school for 14 days. Now, if individuals who had close contact at school were consistently wearing masks when in close contact with one another, and the COVID-positive individual was as well, the close contacts **will not** need to stay home from school. 14-day quarantine requirements are still in place for students who were exposed to a COVID-positive individual in their home.

We understand that this change may cause concern for some of our students, parents, and staff in that it is less restrictive than previous guidance but we will continue to closely monitor our rates of positive cases, as well as enforce the practice of requiring ill students and staff to stay home.

Thank you to our students, families, and staff for adhering to the requirements of face coverings at school and for continuing to use the other essential mitigation strategies as well. It takes our collective effort to keep our community healthy.

VIRTUAL FALL CONFERENCES

For health and safety reasons, PK-12 fall conferences will be held virtually. Specific details for sign up and technology needs will be shared by your student's school in the weeks to come. The published dates for conferences remain the same:

Conference Date	School(s)
October 27	High School
October 29	High School
November 2	Point
November 5	Creek
November 10	Point, Creek, Preschool, and Elementary
November 12	Preschool and Elementary

NUTRITIONAL SERVICES

Starting on October 1st we have a couple of changes taking place for meals.

1) With guidance from the Dept. of Health, we are switching back to our lunch trays for meal service. We will still continue to use the silverware/napkin pack. We will continue to have fruit and vegetable items individually portioned ahead to help with the speed of meal service. All items will still be served by a staff member to all students and staff who come through the meal service line. Self-service is not available at this time. (Students eating in the gym or classroom will still use reusable clamshell containers.)

2) Beginning October 1st, an alternate main item will be offered. Students will need to tell the cooks their milk choice and main option choice. At the High School we will open the Sub Line. From that line we will offer made to order subs and salads.

Printed menus for October breakfast and lunch will be or already have been sent home with K-6 students.

Reminder: All breakfast and lunch meals are free until December 31st or until funding runs out. All children 18 years old and younger are encouraged to participate in this program.

Seeking employment? Join our team!! We are looking to fill part time cook positions. No experience necessary. No nights, holidays, or weekends. Fun, energetic atmosphere. Apply today. [Apply here today.](#)

[USDA & Iowa Non Discrimination Statements](#)

TRANSPORTATION

Reminder - all students are required to wear a mask while on the school bus. We have been handing out quite a few masks to students that are coming to the bus without one. Please make sure your student comes to the bus with their mask on so that the bus can stay on schedule.

We are experiencing additional traffic on campus in the morning and afternoon. Please be cautious as you drive on campus. Buses and parent traffic are scheduled at buildings at the same time of day and will need to work together to safely load and unload students. We appreciate your patience.

PAY FEES USING TOUCH BASE

Book fees, past due fees, and other various applicable fees have been assigned to students and are eligible to be paid online through Touch Base. We are in the process of going through waivers and adjusting fees as necessary for free/reduced students. If you have questions, please reach out to your building secretary.

VOLUNTEER UPDATE (Begin Process to Welcome Volunteers)

We are moving slowly and carefully when welcoming volunteers back into our schools. Our primary responsibility is the safety of our students, staff and volunteers. We are happy to announce the first tier of volunteers eligible to come back into our schools. We will approve those volunteers who have made or will make a commitment to volunteer a minimum of 4 or more hours per week in a classroom, library or school. The volunteer will be asked to watch a presentation outlining College Community Schools Covid 19 policies and procedures and then complete a form with your agreement to support these efforts. As always, volunteers will also be required to complete the online volunteer registration form.

If you would like to commit to volunteering 4 hours or more per week, please email your name and where you would like to volunteer to Kathy Waychoff, District Volunteer Coordinator at kwaychoff@crprairie.org. Kathy will get back to you with a link to the presentation and form.

We appreciate your understanding and patience as we take small steps to ensure everyone's safety.