



Columbus Public Schools
DISCOVERIES



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Back To School 2020

Engaging all learners to achieve success

OUR COMMUNITY

Collaboration provides Pre-K students with digital devices



From Your Superintendent ‘To Boldly Go, Where No Man Has Gone Before’

To borrow from Star Trek in 1966, “To Boldly Go, Where No Man Has Gone Before”, seems to be what is the consistent theme these past six months. The terms fluid and flexible seem to come to mind as we prepare for the start of school.

With over one-hundred staff members working on our return to school plan, they have had to change, adapt, and rewrite several times in response to the rules and positive cases in our community. We are excited to bring students back to our schools for the 1st semester of the 2020-2021 for face-to-face courses.

As you are aware, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Directed Health Measures (DHMs) issued by the Governor on March 17, 2020, we had to finish the spring 2019-2020 semester through remote/on-line learning in most cases. Our instructional staff and students quickly adapted to the changing dynamic of the delivery of instruction.

Our Student and staff surveys reflected issues with remote instruction and showed a clear preference for face-to-face instruction. Further analysis of the 2nd semester of the 2019-2020 school year showed a significant and concerning increase in student withdrawal from school.

Significant factors or issues identified included:

- Grades and classroom performance.
- Motivation and desire (discipline) to complete coursework.



- Difficulty in focusing and paying attention to remote instruction and activities.
- Communication for students and instructors.

The School District is committed to providing the students enrolled in our schools, in-class “person-to-person” instruction during this period presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. We have developed a plan and we will never say it is perfect. But we can say that we have conferred with medical professionals in and outside of our community as to the safest way to return to school. That is where flexibility and fluidity come into play. Things will change as we navigate the first semester. We ask parents and the community for grace as we navigate this river.

This commitment to person-to-person (face-to-face) instruction also involves providing both our teachers and students the safest learning environment possible.

To this end, the School District will be incorporating the following personal safety measures and protective facilities equipment and screening devices to provide the social distancing per the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and reduce the aerobic transmission of potential infectious viruses, including COVID-19.

- Temperature screening of each student at home.
- Instruction will be delivered in person by the instructor
- Student and employee face covering (masks) are required per CDC recommen-

dations. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>.

- Student seating will follow the proximity parameters and used assigned seating.
- Students will sanitize hands when they enter and exit a room.
- Surfaces of student classroom areas will be sanitized prior to and after use.

Columbus Public Schools will follow guidelines as determined by the East Central District Health Department (ECDHD). As COVID-19 implications change, these protocols are subject to change. This information is being provided to Columbus Public Schools staff so they can help their students prepare for a successful transition back to school in August.

Many may agree or disagree with the plan that is laid out. I assure you that the plan that has been developed is a result of best practices to keep both students and staff safe as we enter the 2020-2021 school year. All we ask is your help as a family to follow the guidelines both at school and at home so that we can continue to meet face to face each day and have students involved in one or more of the many activities we have.

To this end, we are focusing on the needs of the students, staff, and schools. The wants will have to wait in order to ensure all students are able to be provided instruction from their teacher. We hope your families had a safe and healthy summer. We cannot wait to get started on August 24.

— Dr. Loeffelholz

Flexibility, positivity: Traits for successful return to school

As the president of the CPS School Board, I want to take this opportunity to welcome you and your students to the 2020-21 school year.

While it has been an unprecedented and tumultuous six months since students were last physically present in our buildings, we are certain that they will be returning to school filled with both hope and excitement to begin a successful academic year.

As we work to return to a sense of normalcy, we all have to remain flexible.

If we have been taught anything during the first half of 2020, it's that change, whether we want it or not, can come swiftly.

If we remain flexible we will be able to keep our students learning while



feeling physically safe and emotionally stable no matter what the future brings us.

As well as being able to adjust to change, we need to model positivity so that our kids will follow suit.

Positivity is contagious; let's all catch it! With flexibility and positivity we will be able to support the kids we all cherish as they begin a new school year.

Please know that your school board works to support you and your students. Our mission statement, “Engaging all learners to achieve success” is at the core of our commitment to all CPS families. Welcome back!

— Candy Becher
CPS Board of Education President

About This Letter

DISCOVERIES is published three times a year (one printed and two digital) by the Columbus Public Schools, P.O. Box 947, Columbus, NE 68602-0947.

Dr. Troy Loeffelholz is the Superintendent of Schools and Nicole Anderson is the CPS Foundation and Marketing Director.

The Columbus Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, sex, marital status, age, or handicap in admission or access to, or treatment or employ-

ment in, its programs and activities.

The Columbus Public School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer. **If you have any special needs** requests that will assist you in participating in services, programs and activities of the Columbus Public School District, please contact your building principal or the Superintendent of Schools.

Board of Education: President Candy Becher, Vice President Doug Molczyk, Ken Curry, Mike Jeffryes, Theresa Seipel and Doug Wiloughby.

Need To Know

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Meal Prices

- Middle school - \$3.00/lunch
- High school - \$3.00/lunch
- Elementary - \$2.75/lunch
- Breakfast will be \$2.00.

Kindergarten will have lunch Aug. 17 and 18. No breakfast will be served that day.

Breakfast and lunch will be served at all elementary buildings and CHS starting on Aug. 24.

There will be no meals at CMS on Aug. 24. Breakfast and lunch will be served at all buildings on Aug. 25.

Unpaid Meal Policy

The purpose of this policy is to establish limitations on the number of breakfasts or lunches a student may receive when the account balance is not sufficient to cover those costs, to provide for alternate meals to be served to students when account balances reach certain limits, and to protect the District from such unpaid financial obligations.

Families are encouraged to keep account balances in the positive at all times. Deposits are accepted at each school building and at the Administration Building.

Deposits may be made by cash or check. Account balances may be obtained through the parent access portal in PowerSchool. If online access is not available, the District Foodservice office may be contacted at 402-563-7055.

Each day that a student eligible for reduced price or paid meals brings the actual amount of the cost of the meal, that student will be provided a breakfast and/or lunch and the amount received will be applied to the cost of that meal rather than to reduce a prior negative balance.

In the event that a student's account balance reaches -\$15.00, the student will be offered an alternate meal meeting reimbursable requirements of the USDA school nutrition program.

The District will also provide the necessary forms for the student's parent or guardian to apply for free or reduced price meals. Such benefits may be applied for at any time during the school year.

To the extent possible, all actions pertaining to students with negative account balances will be handled as confidentially as possible.

Communications regarding account balance concerns will be provided in writing by an assigned District Food Service staff member and/or by automated phone calls. Students will not be used as couriers of such information.

This policy shall be provided in writing on an annual basis to students and parents through the District website and also in the annual back to school mailing and in school handbooks.

The policy shall also be provided in writing to households transferring into the District during the school year. It shall also be provided to school administrators and others charged with enforcement of this policy.

This policy shall be reviewed and adopted on an annual basis.

Since CPS participates in the free and reduced lunch program through the United States Department of Agriculture and Nebraska Department of Education, the district is required to have this policy.

2020 - 2021 SCHEDULES

High School

Freshmen and New Student Information Night

August 17 (A-K)

- 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

August 18 (L-Z)

- 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Parent Meeting Notes:

- One parent or guardian only. No siblings allowed.
- Parents must wear masks and complete the screening process.

9-12 Student Orientation

August 21

- Senior: 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.
- Junior: 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

- Sophomore: Noon - 1:30 p.m.
- Freshman: 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

First Day of School

August 24

- All students, full day beginning at 8:10 a.m.

Middle School

5th Grade Student & Parent Orientation

August 19 (A-K)

- 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

August 20 (L-Z)

- 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Parent Meeting Notes:

- One parent or guardian only. No siblings allowed.
- Parents must wear masks and complete the screening process.

First Day of School

August 24

- 5th Grade: 8 - 11:30 a.m.
- 6th Grade: 8 - 11:30 a.m.

- 7th Grade: 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.
- 8th Grade: 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Elementary Schools

Kindergarten First Day Of School

August 17 (A-K)

- 8:00 a.m. - 3:25 p.m.

Parent Meeting (A-K)

- 2:30 - 3:15 p.m.

August 18 (L-Z)

- 8:00 a.m. - 3:25 p.m.

Parent Meeting (L-Z)

- 2:30 - 3:15 p.m.

Parent Meeting Notes:

- One parent or guardian only. No siblings allowed.
- Parents must wear masks and complete the screening process before entering the building.

First Day of School

August 24

- All students, full day, beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Need To Know

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New Student Registration

Registration for new students at any grade level are being completed at the Columbus Public Schools Administration Building, 2508 27th St. Registrations are done by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, please call Tami Altstadt at 402-563-7000 Ext. 12753. Appointments will be scheduled from 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

If you can't make it on the days and times listed, please call Tami and she will try to accommodate your schedule. Please allow approximately 30 minutes to fill out all of the paperwork.

If an interpreter is need, contact Raul Gascon for registrations Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m. To set an appointment with Raul, please call 402-563-7000 Ext. 10096.

Please bring the following items to the registration appointment:

- Immunization Records
- Certified birth certificate (No copies)
- Proof of Residency, which include one of the following:
 - Mortgage Statement
 - Lease Agreement
 - Personal Property Tax Statement
 - Bank Statement - Within The Last 30 Days
 - Employment Pay Stub - Within The Last 30 Days
 - Gas Bill - Within The Last 30 Days
 - Electric Bill - Within The Last 30 Days

State law requires that prior to the entrance of a student into the beginning grade, or in the case of a transfer from an out-of-state school to any grade, a physical and vision exam must be completed.

As a substitute for such evidence of a physical or vision exam, an objection in writing (signed and dated), should be presented to the registrar.

Physical and eye exam forms need to be returned to the registrar at the Administration Building prior to the first day of school.

All immunizations will need to be complete and proof given before a student will be allowed to enter school.

Physical & Vision Requirements

Nebraska Statutes require:

Physical Examination: Evidence of a physical examination by a physician, physician assistant, or an advanced practice registered nurse within 6 months prior to the entrance of the child into the beginner grade and the seventh grade or, in the case of a transfer from out of state, to any other grade.

No such examination shall be required of any child whose parent or guardian objects in writing.

Visual Examination: Evidence of a visual evaluation by a physician, a physician assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse, or an optometrist within 6 months prior to the entrance of the child into the beginner grade or, in the case of a transfer from out of state, to any other grade.

Contact the school nurse for information regarding free or reduced-cost visual evaluations for families who qualify.

No such evaluation shall be required of any child whose parent or guardian objects in writing.

Important Phone Numbers

Board of Education

President Candy Becher, 120 SE Calle Colombo, 402-563-2767

Vice President Doug Molczyk, 2870 N Park Lane, 402-276-4033
Ken Curry, 3780 30th Avenue, 402-276-7442
Mike Jeffries, 3255 37 Ave., 402-276-3597
Theresa Seipel, 4302 31 St., 402-562-8193

Doug Willoughby, 656 South Quail Lane, 402-564-0217

Secretary Chip Kay, 18 23rd Street #101, 308-289-0905 (home) or 402-563-7000 (work)
Treasurer Linda Staroscik, 2921 33rd St., 402-270-6940 (home) or 402-563-7000 (work)

Administration Building

2508 27 Street - 402-563-7000

Superintendent Dr. Troy Loeffelholz

Executive Director of Instruction Dr. Amy Romshek

Ex. Director of Business Operations/Human Relations Chip Kay

Executive Director of Technology Leonard Kwapiñoski

CPS Foundation and Marketing

Director Nicole Anderson

Student Registrar Tami Altstadt 402-563-7000 Ext. 12753

Student Services/ Special Education

CPS Special Education Facility - 2563 44 Ave.

**Ex. Director of Student Services/
Special Education** Jason Harris

Student Services Facilitator Sara Colford

Student Services Secretary

Susan Olmer
402-563-7000 Ext. 10013

Special Education Secretary

Claudia Feehan
402-563-7000 Ext. 12123

Special Education Transportation - 402-563-7015

English Learners (EL)

Administration Building -
2508 27 Street
402-563-7000

EL District Coordinator Vanessa Gascon-Guarcas - ext. 13600

EL Office Assistant/Parent

Liaison Gricelda Brabec

Interpreter/Parent Liaison Raul Gascón

Translator/Parent Liaison Santiago Vasquez

High School

3434 Discoverer Dr.
402-563-7050

Principal Dave Hiebner

Activities Director Tim Kwapnioski

Assistant Principal Molly Hornbeck

Assistant Principal Angela Leifeld

Assistant Principal Jason Schapmann

Middle School

2200 26 Street - 402-563-7060

Principal Amy Haynes

Assistant Principal & Activities

Director Jordon Anderson

Assistant Principal Adriana Carnes

Assistant Principal Dr. Amy Mancini

Centennial Elementary

500 Centennial St. - 402-563-8180

Principal Andrew Luebbe

Secretary Elizabeth Vera

Emerson Elementary

2410 20 Street - 402-563-7030

Principal Angie Luebbe

Secretary Jeanette Valdivia

Lost Creek Elementary

3772 33 Avenue - 402-563-7045

Principal John P. (J.P.) Holys

Secretary Kandy Bos

North Park Elementary

2200 31 Street - 402-563-7070

Principal Robert (Bob) Hausmann

Secretary Karen Arlt

West Park Elementary

4100 Adamy St. - 402-563-7075

Principal Paula Lawrence

Secretary Kathy Pospisil

Maintenance Shop

2458 48 Avenue - 402-563-7010

Director of Buildings and

Grounds Mike Grutsch

HAVC Coordinator John Harger Jr.

Maintenance/Grounds

Supervisor Mike Moje

Facilities Coordinator

Anthony Wielgus

Carpenter/Craftsman

Rick Zywiec

Electrician Dennis McMeekin

Plumber Dave Howe

Doug Killham

Tom Laska

Brent Lawrence

Return To School - FAQs

Explore the answers to some common questions

Why isn't' remote learning available for everyone?

■ During the Facebook Q & A, Dr. Anderson and Dr. Lemke made a great case for the school being a safe place with all of the cautionary measures in place. Distance learning is not available because we do not have the capacity to do so like other districts. We are providing remote learning for those students and families with documented health issues at this time. **Watch the Facebook Q&A - https://youtu.be/_dWI87pGndw**

When do we have to quarantine?

■ View the ECDHD re-admittance to school document - <https://5il.co/j8jf>

Can my child bring a sack lunch?

■ Yes, your student can bring lunch from home. Outside food deliveries such as pizza, Jimmy Johns etc. will not be accepted.

Will there be hot lunch?

■ Yes, a hot lunch will be served in a more portable manner. The only difference during yellow or Tier 2 is that there will be no self-serve fruit or salad buffet. Lunch menus will still be provided so that you can choose if it is a hot lunch day or a cold lunch day.

No drinking fountains?

Can my student bring a water bottle?

■ Yes, your student is welcome to bring a water bottle. Currently at CHS and CMS there are touchless water bottle filling stations. CPS is in the process of adding touchless water bottle filling stations to each of the elementary buildings.

If a child has symptoms and are asked to quarantine, is the online learning plan going to go into play for those students so they don't fall behind?

■ Quarantine is 10-14 days depending on when the exposure happened. We will treat this absence as if they had the flu, mono, or any other health issues.

Will the parents/guardians be notified of positive cases in the student's class or school?

■ Yes, parents of those students will be notified that someone in their class has been quarantined or tested positive. As long as all are wearing masks the rest of the students will be allowed to stay in school and their temperatures will be monitored.

Will the afterschool program be available?

■ Yes, in the green and yellow tiers the afterschool program will be available. If we are in the orange tier, students will only be able to attend on days they are in the school building. If we go to the red tier there will be no afterschool program.

Why aren't schools screening students instead of parents screening at home?

■ We cannot possibly check 4,200 temperatures each and every day. We are counting on the parents to do their part with their children to help monitor. We cannot control what they do or do not do. Only that they are responsible.

Why are students and staff required to wear a mask?

■ Dr. Kip Anderson and Dr. Luke Lemke gave great reasons for requiring everyone to wear masks during the CPS Facebook Q & A. **Watch the Facebook Q&A - https://youtu.be/_dWI87pGndw**

Three reasons I wear my mask:

① Humility

I don't know if I have COVID as it is clear that people can spread the disease before they have symptoms.

② Kindness

I don't know if the person I am near has a child battling cancer or cares for an elderly parent. While I might be fine, they might not.

③ Community

I want my community to thrive, businesses to stay open, employees to stay healthy and students to stay in school. Keeping a lid on COVID helps us all.

If there are multiple kids in a household will all of them be required to quarantine if one starts showing symptoms or is sent home?

■ Not necessarily. If you can keep them isolated and they are not showing symptoms, they may be able to attend school. Again, this is why the masks are important. Your physician or ECDHD will help provide guidance.

My child has trouble keeping a face mask on so instead I bought a face shield. Are face shields accepted as well?

■ At this time the answer is no. Evidence has shown that face shields alone are not sufficient enough to protect your child. A face shield with a mask has proven to be the most effective.

When is there an end to the tier system criteria?

■ When all Directed Health Measures have been removed and/or a vaccine is in place to help control the spread of the virus.

What are the consequences for not keeping a mask on?

■ We view this as a teachable moment. If an issue continues we will work with families on next steps.



LOOKING FOR MORE?

Columbus Public Schools' Superintendent Dr. Troy Loeffelholz sat down with Columbus doctors Kip Anderson and Luke Lemke for a public Q&A session on Facebook. Find the video at <https://bit.ly/3fPbPnJ>

Orange & Red during remote learning

Student roles and responsibilities

- Establish daily routines for engaging in the learning experiences
- Identify a space in your home where you can work effectively and successfully
- Set weekly goals
- Identify a space in your home where you can participate in remote learning. During remote learning, sit at a table and wear school appropriate dress.
- Monitor online platforms daily.
- Engage in all learning with academic honesty.
- Communicate proactively with your teachers if you cannot attend live meetings, meet deadlines or need additional support.

Parent roles and responsibilities

- Provide support for your children by:
- Establishing routines and expectations
- Reviewing goals for the week
- Defining the physical space for your child to study
- Monitoring communications from your child's teachers to stay informed about required work and progress towards goals.
- Taking an active role in helping your child process his/her learning
- Establishing times for quiet and reflection
- Encouraging physical activity and exercise
- Remaining mindful of your child's stress or worry
- Keep your child social, but set rules around their social media interactions
- Provide feedback about remote learning resources, instructions and communication with the teacher, counselor or principal

Return To School - Content Delivery

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Which tier Columbus Public School finds itself in, from face to face instruction to remote learning is ultimately determined by our students, families, and community and their activities and habits. What we know as evidence in the surveys returned by families this summer is that: **FACE-TO-FACE** instruction and education is the best method for student learning.

We can only provide this option while we are in green, yellow and in a blended format of orange on our

risk assessment dial.

The further we advance on the risk dial the less opportunities our students will have available to them.

If we move to **ORANGE**, students will be in the classroom 2 days a week and at home completing independent instruction 3 days a week.

The after school program will only be available for students on the days that they are in the school building and activities become more limited by the directed health measures.

If we advance to **RED** there will

be no in person instruction and we will move to a remote learning format.

There will be no after school program available at school sites and there will be no activities, which include all sports, fine arts, or clubs. Masks, continued social distancing and increased hand washing are our best chances of providing as near a normal school year as we can for our students. We please ask that each family do their part.

Tier 1 Green - Low Risk	Tier 2 - Yellow Moderate Risk
<u>Schools Open</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Normal Format •Students attend every day •Teachers at school every day •Masks are required by staff •Activities will take place with limited attendance •After School Program runs as normal 	<u>Schools Open</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Normal Format •Students attend every day •Teachers at school every day •Masks are required by staff, students and fans •Activities will take place with limited attendance and possible limitations due to participating schools •After School Program runs as normal
Tier 3 Orange - High Risk	Tier 4 Red - Severe Risk
<u>Schools Open</u> <p>A Days: Monday/Wednesday unless a shortened week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Students attend 2 days per week •Teachers at school every day <p>B Days: Tuesday/Thursday unless a shortened week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •L - Z students (parent/guardian last name) <u>In-person</u> instruction at school <u>led by teacher(s)</u> <p>C Day: Friday unless a shortened week</p> <p>*Student-Teacher Communication 8:00 - 12:00 Real time interaction with teacher face-to face or via Zoom (pre-scheduled) for small group instruction and Q-A session, instant messaging, phone, email</p> <p>Teacher Collaboration 1:00 - 4:00</p> <p>Custodial Cleaning 12:00 - 8:00</p> <p>After School Program: will be available to students on the days they attend in-person. ASP will not be available to students on days that they are assigned for remote learning.</p> <p>Activities: could be disrupted due to limitations by directed health measures and participating schools.</p>	<u>Schools Closed</u> <p>Remote Format: AB/AB/C or adjusted in a shortened week</p> <p>Students attend remotely Teacher work expectations dependent on directed health measures</p> <p>A Days: Monday/Wednesday unless a shortened week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A - K students (parent/guardian last name) <u>Remote</u> instruction at home <u>guided by teacher(s)</u> Real time interaction via Zoom (pre-scheduled), instant messaging, phone, email <p>L - Z students (parent/guardian last name)</p> <p>Independent instruction at home with teacher assignments, pre-recorded videos, practice work</p> <p>B Days: Tuesday/Thursday unless a shortened week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •L - Z students (parent/guardian last name) <u>Remote</u> instruction at home <u>guided by teacher(s)</u> Real time interaction via Zoom (pre-scheduled), instant messaging, phone, email <p>A - K students (parent/guardian last name)</p> <p>Independent instruction at home with teacher assignments, assignments, pre-recorded videos, practice work</p> <p>C Day: Friday unless a shortened week</p> <p>*Student-Teacher Communication 8:00 - 12:00 Real time interaction with teacher via Zoom (pre-scheduled) for small group instruction and Q-A session, phone, email, instant messaging</p> <p>Teacher Collaboration 1:00 - 4:00</p> <p>After School Program: Is not available</p> <p>Activities: No school activities</p>

Need To Know

Routine Directory

According to Columbus Public Schools Policy 507.02, the school district shall disclose the following as routine directory information pertaining to any past, present or future student who is, has been, or will be regularly enrolled in the district.

- Student's name and grade
- Parent/legal guardian name
- Address
- Telephone number
- Date and place of birth
- Dates of attendance
- The image or likeness of students in pictures, videotape, film or other medium
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Degrees, honors and awards received
- Most recent previous school attended
- Certain class work, which may be published on district electronic feeds

Upon request, the district will provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education with the names, addresses and telephone listings of high school students unless a student's parents have notified the district that they do not want this information disclosed without their prior written consent.

The district will notify parents and guardians each year of their rights under this policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Parents will be given an opportunity to prevent the release of this directory information by filing a written objection with the district.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to provide notice and to determine the method of notice that will inform parents.

In an effort to better inform parents and the community, Columbus Public Schools will be using social media to share information. Social media includes but is not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, blogging and podcasting.

When posting information on Social Networks sites (such as Facebook), in most situations, pictures will only include the student's first name. However, first and last names may be listed for building or district-level awards, any extra curricular activity as well as students who participated outside of the school day at activities open to the general public. Students will not be allowed to post on any Social Media pages from the district. Social Media will be monitored by each building principal or his or her designee.

Parents of students, or eligible students, who do not wish to have this information made available, upon request, by the Columbus Public Schools must indicate in writing to the appropriate building principal or high school students to the school counseling and career office by September 1, 2020.

Our Community

Collaboration provides Pre-K students with digital devices

Attempting to plan during a pandemic is not without obstacles. With ever-changing information and need, it becomes much more difficult for organizations to operate.

When Columbus Public Schools began dealing with changes in May, it found more than a helping hand.

Community and Family Partnership (CFP) connected the CPS Foundation with Nebraska Children's and Families Foundation for the donation of 142 iPads. Behlen Manufacturing and Tyson Foods, along with CFP, provided funding to support the iPad integration.

"We want all of our young people to have opportunities for the best success in life," Behlen Chairman and CEO Phil Raimondo said. "(We) have a long term commitment to Columbus and (donated) this very worthy cause so that we can be a part of the discussion at the family dinner tables

in the community."

The collaboration, for Community and Family Partnership, began in May when CPS sought funds for the public WiFi and broadband availability at schools. It changed directions when, through conversations, they heard that students from Kindergarten to 12th-grade were one-to-one (device-to-student) but the Pre-K students were not.

"We thought it was a good way to connect to teachers, and different educational opportunities if they weren't being taught in person," Sarah Papa, Community and Family Partnership Executive Director, said of the iPads. "For CFP, our mission is to serve children and connect them and their families to resources and opportunities. This was a great fit for us."

With the donations, all Columbus Public Schools students (Pre-K to

See, "Community" Pg. 8

Need To Know

Immunization Requirements

All 50 states and the District of Columbia have immunization requirements for children entering school. In Nebraska, children will not be allowed to attend classes in public or private school until the school has written proof of their immunization status.

To attend school, children in Nebraska are required by law to be immunized against the following diseases:

- Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis
- Polio
- MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
- Hepatitis B
- Varicella (Chickenpox)

Each school in Nebraska is required to keep the immunization history of the students enrolled on file. Parents or guardians must present one of the following documents to the school to verify immunization status:

- An immunization record showing that the child is protected by age-appropriate immunizations.
- A statement signed by a physician that the required immunization would be injurious to the student or members of the student's family or household.
- An affidavit signed by a legally authorized representative stating that the immunization conflicts with the tenets and practices of a recognized religious denomination of which the

student is a member.

The following are the state of Nebraska immunization requirements for the 2019-20 school year.

All students grades K through 12 must have:

- three (3) doses of DTaP, DTP, Td, or DT vaccine (one dose given on or after the fourth birthday)
- three (3) doses of Polio vaccine
- two (2) doses of MMR vaccine (given on or after 12 months of age and separated by at least one month)
- three (3) doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine (or 2 doses of adolescent vaccine if student is 11-15 years of age)
- two (2) doses of Varicella (Chickenpox) vaccine (given on or after 12 months of age)

■ If the child has had Chickenpox (Varicella disease), they do not need Varicella vaccinations. Written documentation (including year) of Varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted.

7th Grade Only - 1 dose of Tdap (must contain Pertussis booster) - This dose can be received any time after 10 or 11 years of age, depending on which brand of vaccine is used.

Anyone with questions can contact their health care provider or their school nurse.

DISCOVERIES

Columbus Public Schools
2508 27th Street
P.O. Box 947
Columbus, NE 68602-0947

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Community

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Grade 12) have devices.

With the help of the Columbus Area Future Fund and Behlen, CPS was able to apply for a matching Learning Gap Grant and purchase cases for the new iPads. These cases serve as the device insurance for our students and families. It's more than just the student who benefits with a device in the house, Papa said.

"Through the pandemic, a lot of families had been identified (state and national level) not having resources to connectivity," she said. "We think that providing these iPads might help further a parent or sibling education and be a connection to outside education and potentially employment."

Papa added that these also have the potential to increase engagement with parents and their children to do different activities with their iPads together.

Community and Family Partnership is focused on assisting families in Platte and Colfax counties through collaboration and community resources.

"Our projects, first, start with a conversation. It's hearing these stories of need and then collaborating with communities we serve," she said.

To be apart of those conversations and help, Papa encouraged those to attend their bi-monthly gathering called "Community Collaborative" on the first Wednesday of the month. Those meetings, she said, help bring people together to talk about community issues, network with a variety of business sectors, and allows for groups space and time to work together.



DISCOVERIES

Back To School 2020
Engaging all learners to achieve success

A Letter from Dr. Loeffelholz ■
2020-2021 Schedules and Calendar ■
Back-to-School Need To Knows ■

**IMPORTANT BACK -TO-SCHOOL
INFORMATION INSIDE**