



CCS Update

Summer Edition – 2020

From David J. Eaton, CCS President

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Welcome to CCS!

The new school year is right around the corner and I want to welcome you, or welcome you back, to a great new year at Columbus Catholic Schools. In each of our schools, you'll see new faces as we welcome new students and staff to the CCS family.

Important Note: At Columbus Catholic Schools we will try to communicate information to you frequently and in a variety of ways. The most important of these is via email. If you tend to communicate via Snapchat, Messenger, or other social media these days, you may miss out on important information. Please be sure to check whichever email address(es) we have on file for you at least once a week.

Opening School During COVID-19: This fall we intend to open on Tuesday, August 25th, with students back in our classrooms at every grade level. To do this, we will need to require that masks or shields be worn by all staff and also by all students in grades 3 through 12. I strongly encourage parents of St. John's children to find a mask that fits them comfortably and then have them practice wearing it. If they are comfortable wearing it for even short periods, I would encourage you to have them do so in the classroom if the teacher recommends it for an activity where less physical distancing is possible. Masks won't be required for St. John's students, but students who are comfortable with them are certainly welcome and encouraged to wear one.

Temporary Closures: It is possible that we will experience temporary closures due to Wood County Health or State orders again. It is also possible that we could experience a closure due to positive COVID19 tests among our students or staff. The reason we are requiring masks, practicing physical distancing, and sanitizing surfaces much more frequently this year is to reduce the chances and duration of such closures. Please cooperate in our efforts to keep our students and staff safe.

Please Keep Kids Home if They Have Symptoms: When I first started here at CCS in 2008, having perfect attendance was a fairly big accomplishment. Awards were given to students who didn't miss any school all year. Unfortunately, that led kids to force themselves to come to school when they were sick and contagious.

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While that's not the case so much anymore, I know that for many working parents the temptation is great to just have a child tough-it-out at school when they're not feeling well. That won't work this year.

I know the symptoms of COVID-19, especially in children, are the symptoms of everything else they might have. Even so, please keep your children home when they're sick. The most likely cause of the entire CCS system being shut down is too many teachers getting sick. We certainly don't want students to get COVID, but the reality is that they are less likely to get it and much less likely to have severe symptoms. Our teachers are not so lucky, and continuing to hold in-person classes is reliant on them being able to teach. Please help keep our teachers safe by keeping sick children at home.

Start Wearing Your Masks Now! An even better way to try to have a normal school year is to start wearing a mask any time you're in public or can't practice social distancing. I know some are reluctant to wear a mask or are even strongly opposed to it. Not wearing masks now, though, only cooperates in the spread of a deadly disease. Now is the time to really bring down the number of cases in our area so we can have the best chance to keep our doors open.

Enrollment: Our system-wide enrollment will grow a little bit again this year. Right now our enrollment is up about 3% and likely to go higher. We have many families looking to joining us this fall for the chance to have their children in school every day.

Welcome New Teachers:

PreSchool: Stephanie DeCaire

1st Grade: Christy Kitzhaber

3rd Grade: Jace Krassel

5th Grade: Jill Kupfer

Elem. Computers: Olivia Hintze

Elem Music: Janelle Bless

MS/HS Choir: Mika Brunson

HS Math: Shane Coombs

We also have some teachers changing positions:

Elem PE: Beth Weiland

5K: Cynthia Sharenbroch

3rd Grade: Chelsey Strack

OLP ERC: Joann Sondelski is moving to full-time

COL ERC: Erin Hattamer will be teaching ERC full-time

FACE: Miranda Paulick-Reigel

HS Chemistry: Lori Weiland

HS Physics: Michael Lambrecht

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