



CCS Update

Summer Edition – 2021

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, Instagram, Messenger, or other social media, 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 and COVID-19: This fall we start school on August 31st. By this time, those staff choosing to be vaccinated against COVID-19 have been. Even our students over the age of 12 have had the opportunity to receive the vaccine. Wood County has a fairly high vaccination rate compared to the rest of Wisconsin. The number of reported cases in Wood County is increasing again, but, even so, **face masks for staff and students will be optional this fall.**

Please Be Kind about Optional Masks: Masks will not be required at any grade level. Face masks are only truly optional, though, if both those who choose not to wear them and those who choose to wear them respect each other. Parents, regardless of your choice, I encourage you to talk to your child about not making the presence, or absence, of a mask a source of ridicule.

Temporary Closures/Quarantine: It is not likely that we will experience any closures due to COVID. We made it through the past year without any system-wide or building shutdowns. It is still possible, though much less likely than last year, that some students will be asked to quarantine briefly if they've been in close contact with a known COVID case and are not vaccinated or wearing a mask.

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. 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. Please take the same approach as this last year, though. Keep kids home when they're sick.

Enrollment: This year our enrollment is set to take a leap forward. We ended last year with 565 students. As I write this, we have 611 enrolled for this year. That may change a bit, but chances are good that we'll have about 50 more students in our buildings than last year. A lot of that growth will be happening at St. John's, but there will be new students in every building.

Welcome New Teachers:

HS Business: Connie Hoernke

MS Math: Samantha Moeller

MS Science: Jennifer Rayeske

MS Social Studies: Aaron Bonogofsky

1st Grade: Shelly Zank

Tech Ed: Lee Hoernke

HS Spanish: Renee Fait

We also have some teachers changing positions:

2nd Grade: Amy Clifford

SJ Interventionist: Christy Kitzhaber

HS Chemistry: Lori Wieland