

Dear CPS Families:

We know the last several days have been challenging and are full of uncertainty. We are grateful for your continued support, flexibility, understanding and patience. Together we are continuing to practice our core values of empathy, grace, collaboration, integrity, transparency and trust.

As a reminder we are currently closed through April 12. We will continue to re-evaluate all available information and will make adjustments as necessary.

As promised, we want to provide you an update on our operations while schools are closed.

Food & Family Support Resources

Our grab-and-go meal delivery for students in need will begin on March 30. We will have 8 buses running multiple stop routes Monday-Friday. The stops are time specific. Students can meet the bus at the designated stop and time to pick up their meal. **A list with stops and times is attached.**

There are many community and faith-based groups that are providing supports for children and families in need to help us bridge the gaps. We're amazed by the outpouring of those willing to help and provide services. If you haven't already looked, the Food Bank of Central and Northeast Missouri has a list of all the partner agencies that are providing food. The link includes the agency and the hours of operation. Here's the link: <https://sharefoodbringhope.org/agencies/boone>

The Food Bank Central Pantry is offering drive-up service: <https://sharefoodbringhope.org/central-pantry-boone-county>

Supplemental information on how to help is available here: <https://sharefoodbringhope.org/news/2020/3/16/how-the-food-bank-is-responding-to-covid-19>

The United Way is also responding to families in need. If anyone needs assistance finding food, childcare, assistance paying household bills, locating mental health services or other essential services contact [United Way 2-1-1](https://www.unitedway.org/2-1-1). It's FREE and CONFIDENTIAL. Specialists are available 24/7. Dial 2-1-1 or 1-800-427-4626 TTY 1-866-385-6525.

Additionally, the City of Columbia has a site set up for those interested in volunteering to help where there are needs: <https://www.como.gov/volunteer/covid/>

Technology

Our first shipment of student WiFi hotspots have arrived and are being mailed to students beginning Friday, March 20. We have a listing of those who have indicated a need for WiFi. Each household identified will receive one hotspot. The hotspots will be mailed to the address for the household on file with the school district.

The hotspots will work with all CPS devices in the household, both iPads and laptops. They provide filtered internet access per our school district internet use policies. Instructions on how to connect the hotspots are included and a video on the connectivity is available on our website at

www.cpsk12.org/covid/technology. Instructions will be provided in multiple languages for families with English Learners.

An additional shipment of hotspots should arrive early next week and at that time we will fulfill the remaining student and staff requests.

For others needing internet access, Spectrum and Mediacom have options available. Additionally, CPS filtered-WiFi is available from any of our school parking lots. You can pull up and sign on for free access.

Academics

We're happy to see students continuing to learn while we're away. There are many academic resources available at www.cpsk12.org/COVID19. Teachers are also communicating directly with students and families. Be sure to monitor your email for those direct messages. Next week is also spring break for our district.

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education announced yesterday that state assessments (MAP and EOC) will not be administered this year.

Please continue to follow the guidance from our local, state and federal agencies. Our COVID-19 website will continue to be updated regularly with information: www.cpsk12.org/COVID19

Stay safe!

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