

Update for Families: Return to Learning for Fall 2020 – September 1, 2020

Dear CPS Families:

Last night the Board of Education voted to begin the school year in a fully online format for our families who selected in-person learning. The decision was not easy and the Board spent several hours listening to experts, asking questions, having discussion and hearing public comment. In the end, our community's spike in positive cases has made it not possible for an in-person return at this time.

We all want to be back in person. All of us – students, employees, families, our community. Until that is possible, we're prepared to provide online and virtual learning for our students. We have created options and supports for our students and families and we will continue to address needs as they arise. This isn't an easy endeavor, but our district is up to the challenge. Our teachers and employees are amazing individuals. We know our collective frustration with the current state of the pandemic in our community comes from a place of shared love for our children. We all want our children to be safe, to have the very best education, and to become successful adults. We are grateful for your continued patience, flexibility, and understanding as we all try to get to the point where we can see our students in person.

You can watch the video of last night's Board of Education meeting at [www.cpsk12.org/cpstv](http://www.cpsk12.org/cpstv).

Information on our return will continue to be posted and updated at [www.cpsk12.org/fall2020](http://www.cpsk12.org/fall2020). As a reminder here's a summary of the different options students will be participating in when school begins on September 8.

## **VIRTUAL**

**CPSElementary@Mizzou** – This program is for students who enrolled in the elementary virtual option. The classes are taught by CPS teachers using the platform provided by Mizzou. **These students are not impacted by changes made to in-person learning.** Students remain in the CPSElementary@Mizzou program through the first semester. The program at this time is full and requests to enter the program are being added to a waiting list and are addressed on a case-by-case basis as space allows.

**CPS Virtual** – This program is for students who enrolled in the secondary (grades 6-12) virtual option. The classes are taught online by CPS teachers using CPS resources and curriculum. **These students are not impacted by changes made to in-person learning.** Students in this option can choose to transition to in-person at the end of the semester. The program has a waiting list and requests to enroll will be addressed once student course schedules are complete on a case-by-case basis as space allows.

## IN-PERSON

**CPS In-Person** (Fully online as of 8/31/20) – This includes students (grades K-12) who selected in-person learning. In-person will be fully online to start the school year and students will be taught by CPS teachers using CPS resources and curriculum. Elementary students will have learning 5-days a week. Middle and high school students will have daily classes and Wednesdays will be used for support and students working on course assignments. The district will continue to monitor community COVID-19 cases and will announce any changes in how in-person learning will take place.

Over the next few days individual school will continue to provide information regarding:

- Elementary class assignments
- Device pick up days
- Virtual meet the teacher events
- Middle and high school schedules will be available by September 4

Please look for communication directly from your child's school or program.

**Students should log in to their device to ensure they have access prior to the start of school.** In addition to the device pick-up days and assistance being offered by your child's school, students can also receive device help the first week of school. If a student needs help with a device, CPS Technology Services technicians will be at the front entrance of all of our middle schools from 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8 through Friday, September 11, and from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the front entrance of the Aslin Administration Building on Tuesday, September 8 through Thursday, September 10.

The Board of Education will continue to discuss our return to in-person learning and will determine when it is safe to do so based on COVID-19 cases in the community. The Board of Education will meet again on September 14 and will dedicate time at each of its upcoming meetings to address our plans and the community's efforts to flatten the Columbia curve.

Thank you for your continued support of Columbia Public Schools. We look forward to our return to learning on September 8.

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[www.cpsk12.org](http://www.cpsk12.org) | [www.cpsk12.org/fall2020](http://www.cpsk12.org/fall2020)