

December 9, 2020

Dear CCSD Families,

I am writing to provide important updates regarding our efforts to ensure all our students have access to a safe, high-quality education. I would like to apologize to parents for receiving information through social media before we could share it with you. We had prepared a letter to share with parents earlier today but had to pause due to an unexpected number of positive cases today. We did not want to send out one communication knowing that we would need to send out modified information immediately afterward. Our goal is to always be transparent and efficient in our communications. However, with the nature of this virus, such communication is not always possible. I appreciate your continued patience and understanding as we make these difficult decisions.

Since Thanksgiving Break, we have seen a gradual increase in COVID-19 cases and exposures. While we have been effective in keeping our school communities safe by conducting contact tracing and pausing instruction, the increase in cases and exposures has caused a significant shortage of teachers, bus drivers, and substitute teachers.

Based on the spread of COVID-19 in our community and its impact on our staffing levels, **we have made the difficult decision to pivot to remote-only instruction for the last week of this quarter (Monday 12/14/20 through Friday 12/18/20).**

Because we expect exposures to occur as families travel and celebrate the holidays, the district also revised our schedule for January 2021 to delay the return of in-person instruction until Tuesday, 1/19/21. Details of the first two weeks of the new year are provided on the following page. We understand that this decision will pose challenges for our students and families, and we did not make it lightly.

We are committed to returning to in-person instruction as soon as we can safely do so, and we will do everything we can to support you during this time. During both periods of remote-only instruction, student meals will be provided via school bus routes and at specific school “drive-thru” locations.

Please review the information in this document and contact your school principal with any questions. **I will provide you with another written update no later than Friday, January 8.** Thank you for your continued cooperation and support as we work through these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Dr. Xernona Thomas
Interim Superintendent

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

Date(s)	Details
December 14–18	Distance learning with live virtual instruction for all students
December 18	Initial selection of desired instructional model for Quarter 3*
January 4	Teacher Workday (all students will receive asynchronous work)
January 5	Election Day (all students will receive asynchronous work)
January 6	Final opportunity for selection of desired instructional model for Quarter 3*
January 6–14	Distance learning with live virtual instruction for all students
January 15	Teacher Work Day (all students will receive asynchronous work)
January 18	District is closed in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday
January 19	Current planned date for return to in-person instruction

Returning High School Students to In-Person Instruction

Although previous correspondence indicated students would not be able to return to in-person instruction during Quarter 3, we are still exploring options to bring high school students back to school buildings at some point during the quarter. We are considering many options for addressing our staffing and transportation challenges, including a hybrid model of alternating days and a shortened school day. We do not have specific details to share at this time but will be in touch as soon as we do.