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Message Regarding In-Person Learning and Factors for Return

I want to provide an update regarding in-person learning and new factors that impact our decision-making process. Our teams are continually navigating the challenging situations imposed by the pandemic.

As you are likely aware, Athens-Clarke County and the surrounding region are experiencing record levels of COVID cases. Our local medical facilities face a strain in their ability to treat COVID patients and other health situations that normally arise.

The district initially planned to return to in-person learning for Pre-K thru 8th-grade students on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. However, the district will postpone the return to in-person classroom instruction for all students, Pre-K-12. We did consider bringing back specialized groups due to their small class sizes (e.g., special education adaptive students, students with severe and profound disabilities). Due to health and safety concerns, we felt it was best to postpone in-person instruction for these students as well.

There are several considerations we face in deciding when and how to return staff and students to our school buildings:

1. COVID-19 data for Athens-Clarke County and the Northeast Georgia region;
2. Healthcare facilities capacity and ability to treat our community;
3. CCSD staffing capacity;
4. Availability of the COVID-19 vaccine.

We will continue to monitor COVID-19 data in our region and consider plans to safely return students to in-person instruction. Although I cannot provide a specific date for a return at this time, we will provide an update to our community the week of January 19th. A noticeable decline in COVID positive results is the first metric we will consider when beginning the phase-in to in-person instruction. We are aware that we asked parents to make their instructional decision by January 6th. We will provide parents with the option to make changes to their decision based on additional information and data.

I recognize this has been a stressful time for our community. I thank you again for your patience and support during this challenging time.

Dr. Xernona Thomas
Superintendent

Student Meals

CCSD will continue to provide free student meals during virtual learning (either at curbside locations or via bus routes). Multiple days worth of food will be distributed. **No meals will be provided on Monday, January 18, 2021 (student holiday).**

Fri, JAN 8	<p>Curbside locations (11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chase Street Elementary ● Clarke Middle ● Hilsman Middle ● Timothy Road Elementary ● Whitehead Road Elementary ● Winterville Elementary
Mon, JAN 11	
Wed, JAN 13	
Fri, JAN 15	
Wed, JAN 20	
Fri, JAN 22	<p>Bus Delivery</p> <p>To be added to a bus route for meal delivery, contact the Transportation Department: Phone: 706-548-6971 Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.</p>

Community Food Resources

Please [click here](#) to view community food resources for families.