



Collinsville Community Unit School District 10

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Hello Kahok Nation, I'm superintendent Brad Skertich.

As we approach the winter break, there is no doubt this year's holiday season looks drastically different throughout our district than in year's past. We are unable to have Christmas Programs, Band and Chorus Concerts or the annual Holiday basketball Tournament. Events like these ignite our holiday spirit because of the joy we get watching our students perform and the power of a child's smile that can brighten a room. Without those moments this year, it's been hard to find that holiday spirit.

While a lot looks different this year, some things remain the same, despite navigating a pandemic.

First, the Dorris Intermediate Christmas Drive continues to receive incredible support. Led by Dorris Social Worker Debbie Zimmerman, with the assistance of numerous district staff and organizations, nearly 450 children will receive Christmas gifts thanks to the generosity and love our communities' businesses, organizations and residents continue to show our students.

Second, Collinsville's annual Festival of Trees raised over \$6,000 which was presented by the City of Collinsville to KahokStrong to assist students, staff and community members experiencing a crisis or enduring a time of need.

Third, the district's partnership with St. Louis Area Food Bank has and continues to serve hundreds of area residents each month and has provided thousands of meals since our Special Education Department's partnership began in the fall of 2019.

Yes, we long for normalcy, but good is still occurring and the selflessness and generosity of our communities continues to shine bright!

Our district's Winter Break begins on Wednesday, December 23rd and ends on Sunday, January 3rd. After careful consideration of the impact family gatherings could have on the health of our students and staff during the break, we have decided the district will begin the 2nd semester in a Remote Setting for the first week of school: January 4th – 8th. Monday will be a remote planning day as usual. Tuesday, January 5 will begin full-remote learning - under the schedules we are currently using. The K-6, 7/8 and 9-12 daily live lesson schedules will continue to provide consistency for our students.

The district's meal distribution schedule will remain unchanged based on what we've been doing prior to Winter Break. The schedule and locations are on the district website.

Then, beginning the week of January 11th, the district plans to transition K-12 back to a 2-days-a-week Hybrid Learning Setting. A-L students will attend in-person Tuesday/Thursday and M-Z students will attend in-person Wednesday/Friday. CAVC, Pre-K and specific, identified IEP students will attend Tuesday – Friday. Watch for grade level specific communication from your child or children’s respective schools the week of January 4th.

Keep in mind, the plan for the second week of January could change, based on public health data in our communities. The return to Hybrid learning beginning Tuesday, January 12 is our plan at this time and we continue to encourage families to have alternate plans .

Beginning in the second semester, our health staff will initiate the district’s [Rapid Point-of-Care Antigen Testing Program](#) to students and staff who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms at school. This will be instrumental in our efforts to determine if symptom’s children or adults have are COVID-related or a seasonal illness. This serves as an additional safety measure as we return to In-Person instruction. Complete information about the program, including the required parent/guardian prior consent form, is available on our website’s [COVID-19 Health](#) page.

Nationally, the approval and administering of a COVID-19 vaccine this week provides optimism that our society will slowly return to normal in 2021. While that is going to require continued patience on our part, there is light at the end of the tunnel in the months ahead. Which is something we can all look forward to in the new year.

Please be safe, wear a mask, wash your hands, and social distance. Don’t forget to wear your purple and show your Kahok Pride. On behalf of our entire school district Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Mark B. Skertich Ed.D.
Superintendent