



Dialogue with Doc - Community FAQ

2021-22 School Year

Information Contained in this document is accurate as of this date:

Updated 07.22.21

This document was handed out at the July Dialogue for Doc discussion. For updated information on COVID-19 related information, please refer to our [NEW COVID-19 FAQ](#), as COVID orders have changed since this document was published.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. Will masks be optional all year?

A1. Based on current recommendations from local, state and federal health agencies, masks are recommended when indoors for all non-vaccinated individuals, but not required. This means parents/students will need to make the choice they are comfortable with. If the guidance changes from recommended to required, the District will inform all parents, students and staff of necessary changes.

Q2. Will my child be required to get the COVID-19 vaccine in order to attend school?

A2. No. The COVID-19 vaccine is not listed on the School Required Vaccination List. For more information, please see: [School Required Vaccines for Parents by MDHHS](#).

Q3. Will the District separate students who are vaccinated from students who are unvaccinated?

A3. No. Vaccination status is a personal choice and the District does not engage in separation of students based on vaccination status.

Q4. What happens if the health department issues another mask mandate?

A4. Should the District receive any public health orders requiring the use of masks from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), or Kent County Health Department (KCHD) adjustments may be necessary. Athletics will adhere to rules set forth by MDHHS and the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA).

Q5. Will contact tracing continue?

A5. Schools are required to report communicable diseases to their local health department within 24 hours, which includes COVID-19. Positive or probable COVID-19 cases will be reported to the Kent County Health Department as we are required to do.

Q6. Will Caledonia Community Schools quarantine students?

A6. No, all quarantines will continue to be issued by the student's resident health department.

Q7. What is the District spending allocated ESSER funds on?

A7. For 20/21 the District utilized ESSER funds on the following as they were allowable expenditures within the parameters of the grant and were areas of increased cost to the District in response to the pandemic.

- Remote learning (teachers, devices, accessibility, learning management system)
- Healthcare staff (doctor, nurses, building health paras)
- Mental health supports and staff
- PD and curriculum development
- PPE (sanitizing supplies, gloves, masks)

For 21/22 the District is planning to utilize these funds on the same expenditure categories as last year. There has been some expansion of allowable uses where we plan to include HVAC work to upgrade some of our systems, extend learning opportunities and truancy tracking.

Q8. Does the District teach Critical Race Theory? Are districts required to teach Critical Race Theory (CRT) if they accept ESSER funds?

A8. No, CCS does not teach CRT. We are not required to teach CRT if we accept ESSER funds and are not utilizing ESSER funds for CRT. CRT is not taught in our school district, nor is it under consideration to be taught in the future.

Q9. Is STEM part of Critical Race Theory (CRT) or Marxism as some have alleged?

A9. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. The goal of STEM is to provide students with cutting edge 21st century skills to compete for jobs in the future.

Q10. What is Diversity, Belonging, Equity, & Inclusion (DBEI) and what does it mean for the District? What is the District's goal for DBEI?

A10. CCS has engaged in facilitating a broader and deeper understanding of the unique individual contributions that each of our staff and students bring to our community. The District's goal for DBEI is to help all our stakeholders - administrators, staff, and students - gain insights into how they can positively contribute to a social environment that seeks to treat everyone with kindness, dignity and respect.

Q11. What is the District's curriculum process? How is the curriculum reviewed?

A11. Our curriculum is designed to meet all Michigan state requirements and standards. A curriculum team, composed of trained educators, reviews our curriculum, which is then approved by the full Board of Education.

Q12. If a parent sees something in the curriculum they have a question about, what should they do?

A12. Should a parent have a question about the curriculum, they should talk to the teacher to understand the context of the curriculum selection. If that conversation does not suffice, the parent should request a meeting, or place a call to the school principal. If questions persist, the parent can contact the Curriculum Department to seek clarity.

Q13. Can parents request to see lesson plans and syllabuses? Are these posted at the beginning of the year for parents to review?

A13. Outlines, course syllabuses (high school), or newsletters are commonly available and communicated to parents through the schools. These communication tools are designed to provide the insight for parents to understand the focus of the standards and the curriculum resource used to teach to the standards. If there is a specific question about a lesson plan or syllabus, a parent should talk to their child's teacher.

Q14. What parameters does the District give teachers when selecting supplemental curriculum? What are the checks and balances of this to keep it aligned with the core curriculum?

A14. Teachers are provided with Board of Education adopted curriculum resources to facilitate instruction of grade level/subject area standards. Should more content be necessary to help students better understand the standards, teachers can utilize other resources so long as it corresponds to state standards.

Q15. How do parents know that the supplements teachers use are not their personal opinions instead of based on textbooks/curriculum?

A15. The District provides professional development to teachers so they understand the Board adopted curriculum resources. In addition, time is allotted for teachers to become familiar with the subject/domain standards they are responsible to teach. A trained teacher may supplement the curriculum in order to ensure state standards are achieved.

Q16. What does the District’s Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum cover?

A16. Our social-emotional learning curriculum is aligned with the [Michigan Department of Education SEL competencies and indicators](#). The linked document presents the five core competencies: Self-Awareness, Social-Awareness, Self-Management, Relationship Skills and Responsible Decision Making, along with a rationale for each. We utilize Sanford Harmony for SEL lessons in grades PK-6. Anyone can create a free account and view full lesson plans through this link: <https://online.harmonysel.org/>. For grades 7-12, SEL instruction follows our PBIS behavior expectations, which are shared across buildings. The expectations are Personal Responsibility, Respect, Integrity, Discipline, and Engagement. SEL lessons examine these topics broadly as they relate to the school environment or career readiness. Additionally, students learn evidence-based strategies for caring for their own mental health.

Q17. What is the process for staying informed about reproductive health?

A17. State legislation outlines requirements for reproductive health curriculum, including a periodic local review, specific instruction per grade level and requirements to include medically accurate information about human immunodeficiency virus infection (HIV) and facts about abstaining from sexual intercourse.

The work of reviewing curriculum is the responsibility of the District’s Sexual Education Advisory Board (SEAB) which includes local clergy, parents, and staff members. The members of the advisory board are approved by the CCS Board of Education. The individual names of advisory board members are kept confidential to protect the integrity of the process and minimize the influence of private vendors or special interest groups.

Parents can review the notes from the SEAB posted on the website and presented at CCS board meetings where recommended programs and/or resources are open to public comment. Any changes to curriculum must still meet state requirements.

Q18. What is the District’s relationship with Planned Parenthood?

A18. The District does not have a relationship with Planned Parenthood.

Q19. Does the District allow boys to go into girls bathrooms or girls into boys bathrooms?

A19. No. A student who doesn’t feel comfortable in a particular bathroom environment can visit one marked as Unisex.

Q20. How do parents find a reading list for each grade level?

A20. For K-5, ELA reading or books lists can be found on the [CKLA site](#) or by asking the child’s teacher. All other book list queries should go through the child’s teacher.

Q21. Will Duncan Lake Middle School(DLMS) be on the same schedule as Caledonia High School (CHS)?

A21. The schedule at DLMS will not be exactly the same as CHS. The two schools are similar in time but not exactly the same. By aligning them similarly, there is an opportunity for shared staff when necessary between the buildings, and enhanced or academically accelerated courses to be utilized as needed by 7th/8th grade students. The different start times also help reduce congestions at start and end times for each building.

Q22. What is the plan for the “Old” Dutton Elementary after the new one is open?

A22. At this time there is no definite plan for the “old” Dutton Elementary. Our Bond team sub committee will look into various options and make a decision at a future date. We still have more than two school years that the current building will be utilized which allows plenty of time for the Bond team to determine the most appropriate plan for the future.

Q23. What safety measures will we take on Kraft to slow traffic down during drop off and pick up times near the new Duncan Lake Middle School dropoff?

A23. There will be flashing lights installed along Kraft Avenue similar to what is already in place near the Emmons Lake entrance. This will reduce speeds along Kraft during drop off and pick up times.

Q24. When will the public know what membership and pricing will be for the new community center?

A24. The anticipated announcement is still about a year away. Construction of the community center is projected to be completed by late 2023. District officials and YMCA officials are still working through our master agreement and the YMCA will need sufficient time to do a fiscal analysis before membership pricing is announced.

Q25. What happens to the district if they do not abide by MDHHS or KCHD guidelines? Why can't we just not follow their mandates and set an example for others to follow?

A25. If state and local health department mandates are not enforced, a district or school runs the risk of being shut down due to health concerns. Legal actions can be taken against the district as well which could have adverse impact on the district's ability to operate schools.

Q26. What is the district's policy on drugs since we are seeing a rise in usage across/within our community?

A26. CCS has developed an ongoing partnership with the Kent County Sheriff's Department that includes assignment of a School Resource Officer (SRO) to Caledonia High School. Staff members work with our SRO as appropriate if and when situations involving drugs or weapons arise. The district also has policies in place that are consistent with state law as it relates discipline, up to expulsion, with regards to drugs and weapons. CCS also has processes in place for students to anonymously report situations involving drugs or weapons. Finally, CCS has support staff in place to help direct students and families to proper in-district and community support with regards to student substance abuse if necessary.

Q27. Are we going to be testing athletes this fall?

A27. The MHSAA currently hasn't issued any guidance at this time that requires schools to test students this fall.