

# Colorado Military Academy



## Briefing for Board – COVID-19

### **CDE Waivers**

Statewide waivers on days and hours have been extended from CDE. Waivers on laws such as teacher/staff evaluations has been extended. Attendance tracking is not required. State assessments have been cancelled.

**Charter School Institute** - Website <https://resources.csi.state.co.us/coronavirus/>

Weekly Zoom meeting for head of schools in Colorado Springs area (Mondays @ noon) – Terry Croy Lewis gives updates then there is a time to ask questions and share ideas.

CSI has asked us to file a Remote Learning Plan and I have done so. They have also asked for some samples of communications to parents as well – done.

### **District 11**

Linda Stahnke received D11's updates. This is important because CSI and the Commissioner of Education's office have asked that charter schools follow the lead of their geographic districts.

### **CMA Academics**

Linda has asked teachers to continue with the programs/curriculum they were using in the classroom as much as possible for the sake of continuity. We hope to advance students as we would have in the classroom and be able to pick it up from there when we return.

Teachers are posting assignments in Class Dojo or Google Classroom, resources that they were already using to communicate with parents. Students may turn in assignments by returning scanning and returning them through the same means, by taking a photo with their phones and sending to teacher, or by dropping papers off at the box in the breezeway.

We are requiring "office hours" by teachers. They must be available to parents and students for questions from 1-4 PM.

Some teachers are adding electronic resources. I have opened several free accounts teachers have asked for. Examples are BrainPop, Discovery Learning, Spelling City, and others. We have subscribed to Kuta Math for upper level teachers.

For parents who are not doing any schooling or refusing to connect with teachers, I will be calling and saying their student will be required to do summer school in order to pass to the next grade.

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## Chromebooks

Under normal circumstances our K-6 students have 1:1 Chromebooks in their classrooms. 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grade students have assigned Chromebooks. Upper level teachers tend to use Google Classroom for posting assignments. They are continuing to use that for turning assignments in as well.

For families that did not have home computers, we offered to loan them their student's Chromebook from the classroom. About 200 parents have taken us up on that. They sign a checkout form which includes replacement costs and a statement of responsibility for that. Free internet info has been given out. (We have been advised that this can only support one user at a time.)

Our IT guy has been available to troubleshoot remotely for parents, teachers.

## Payroll

All staff is continuing to be paid as they would have been. Contractors are not necessarily paid the same, but should be billing for services used.

## New FMLA Rules

Have been adopted as received from the Colorado Department of Labor, employees notified.

- *Two weeks (up to 80 hours) of **expanded family and medical leave** at the employee's regular rate of pay* where the employee is unable to work because the employee is quarantined (pursuant to Federal State, or local government order or advice of a healthcare provider), and/or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and seeking a medical diagnosis; or
- *Two weeks (up to 80 hours) of **expanded family and medical leave** at two-thirds of the employee's regular rate of pay* because the employee is unable to work because of a bona fide need to care for an individual subject to quarantine (pursuant to Federal State, or local government order or advice of a healthcare provider), or care for a child (under 18 years of age) whose school or child care provider is closed or unavailable for reasons related to COVID-19, and/or the employee is experiencing a substantially similar condition as specified by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretaries of the Treasury and Labor.

A covered employer (CMA) must provide to **employees that it has employed for at least 30 days:**

- *Up to an additional 10 weeks of **expanded family and medical leave** at two-thirds of the employee's regular rate of pay* where an employee is unable to work due to a bona fide need for leave to care for a child whose school or child care provider is closed or unavailable for reasons related to COVID-19.

## Food services

We have advised our families of D11 feed sites. We have given out info about our food pantry. Contact person is our counselor.

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## **Mental Health**

We sent out a briefing from our school counselor with a phone number at which she could be contacted. She is available for stressed-out students and parents. She is immediately available for students in crisis. I am aware of several calls she has made or handled concerning difficult situations.

## **Zoom Staff Meetings**

I am meeting with 3 groups weekly: Elementary teachers, Secondary teachers, and SPED staff. This is to field concerns and answer questions. We all enjoy seeing each other's faces.

## **Zoom for Teachers**

Some teachers are using Zoom to have lunch with their kids – see faces, talk. Security – I have advised them to use passwords so that only appropriate people may enter the meeting.

Special Ed is using Zoom to continue to hold IEP meetings, to meeting with and help students, etc. Some printed packets being given out.

## **At the Building**

I am coming in to the building at least from 9 to 1 on Tuesdays and Fridays. I unlock the breezeway doors so that parents can pick up packets of print work from teachers. Office manager is coming in 2 mornings per week to clear voicemail. Barb comes in about once per week to generate checks which I sign.

I have also requested that those who are in high-risk categories NOT come to the building.

## **Exemptions**

We are hearing from a few families that they are overburdened by the home learning. For those who are essential workers or single parents, I am exempting them from specials work if they request it. Example – 2 parents, both essential military, now trying to work and do home learning.

## **Grading, Retentions and Summer School**

We do have some students who were on the verge of retention. Some were trying to bring grades up. We also have some families who are not doing any schoolwork. My intention is to require summer school through online learning for these cases. We will have a weekly check-in with a staff member to make sure things are getting done.

On grades, I think the thing for us to do (with Board's approval) is to freeze grades at the level of end of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. Allow 4<sup>th</sup> quarter work to bring up grades, but not to lower them.

Students who would have been retained will be offered a summer school option. (Not free)

## **Budget Schedule – per CSI**

- May 12 forecast to Joint Budget Committee at State Legislature.

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- May 18 – General Assembly to reconvene
- May 30 Budget will be passed.
- Charter schools are to work on budgets during first 2 weeks of June, have Board's approval by June 30 and to CSI.
- CSI is to be informed of particular challenges, issues. They may have some funds for assistance.

Doug & Barb & I have prepared budget cuts at a number of percentage levels, matrixed against increased enrollment.

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## **When We Return**

Nurse's guidelines

- No temp – 99 degrees or above
- No cough
- No vomiting or diarrhea w/in 48 hours (up from 24 hours)
- Disinfecting of doorknobs, banisters, etc. twice per week.

We will be taking people temperatures – I have asked our staff to order some forehead thermometers. (See sign that is posted on the building.)