



## COLUMBUS ARTS & TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY

2255 Kimberly Parkway E.  
Columbus, OH 43232  
Phone: 614-577-0900 Fax: 614-866-0300  
Columbusata.org

Dear CATA Parents and Families,

We recognize that these are very difficult times, and we want to help you through this as best as we can. As we enter the final two scheduled months of school, there are a lot of questions that we would like to definitively answer. These decisions have been made with our students' best interest in mind, focusing on both the mental and physical health of our kids, as well as their education. The following are frequently asked questions about how we are going to continue school:

**Q: Why haven't I heard from anyone from the school?**

A: If you have not had any communication from staff at the school, please contact the front desk as soon as possible to update your contact information. Faculty and staff have made several attempts to contact everyone, but we are limited to the contact information that is on file. As of today, we regularly communicate with 90% of our families. If you need to update your contact info, including phone number and primary email, please email your Enrollment Coordinator, Adrienne Cordell, directly at [ACordell@columbusata.org](mailto:ACordell@columbusata.org).

**Q: How is school going to continue?**

A: This is the hardest to answer, but the short answer is that our teachers will continue to work with families to provide supporting coursework that is tailored to each student. There is no substitute for learning in the classroom, and what has been developed is designed to help support continued education for the remainder of the school year. Resources will be posted on the school's COVID-19 page on the official website, but the main method of communication will be directly from your children's teachers themselves.

**Q: Is school going to be online?**

A: Some of the programming is intended to be performed online, though this is strongly encouraged, it is not required. If you are unable to complete the work online, inform your child's teacher and they will provide a paper-based alternative. Additionally, if your child is unable to access the materials, it will not count against them. We will be moving as much of our content to a central system. Please refer to the enclosed/attached letter from Principal Bates for more information.

**Q: Are the kids getting grades for this work?**

A: In short, no. Given the circumstances for many in the CATA family, there is not both a fair and equitable way to assign official grades for coursework during this Quarter. Teachers will still provide feedback on assignments and special considerations are being taken into account for graduating seniors and students who were on the bubble of failing (e.g. having failed one or two quarters thus far).

However, for non-bubble students, grades are not going to be factored into the formal 2019-2020 final grades. **PLEASE LET ME BE CLEAR...** it is critically important that students complete all assigned work because we know this closure has already created a gap in learning. With summer upon us, we are concerned that students not completing assignments will be significantly behind in the fall. That could ultimately affect their ability to pass state tests or pass to the next grade at the end of next year. It is imperative that students stay academically engaged to avoid future setback or challenges. **Your support is the single most important factor in making sure our students maintain academic progress throughout this closure. THEY MUST STAY ENGAGED AND LEARNING THIS ENTIRE TIME!!!**

**Q: When am I going to get a Chromebook?**

A: Like most schools, we do not have enough Chromebooks to loan to each student. Based on the response from teachers' poll of CATA families, we will not be able to provide devices to all families in need. As we continue to look for resources to address this concern, we will begin disseminating devices systematically. You will be contacted if and when there is a device for your family. **Please note: ONE device per family, for which parents/guardians will be required to contractually assume financial and access responsibility.**

**Q: What about state testing?**

A: The state has waived this year's state testing for every formal test, including the rules for the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. This includes the Ohio State Tests for K-8, End of Course exams for high school, ESL exams, Alternative Assessment for Special Education (AASCD), and other required diagnostics.

**Q: Are you going to retain students this year?**

A: Retentions will follow the same rules and policies with the exception of using formal tests as factors. Grades will officially be calculated using Quarters 1 through 3. Families will be contacted individually if their child is facing retention.

**Q: Are Special Education services going to continue?**

A: This is an area that we are still working through, as the laws surrounding this issue go beyond the state level. Some elements have been waived at the State and Federal level. However, we are planning to continue services, including formal ETR/IEP meetings, virtually. Your Special Education Teachers and coordinators will be in contact with you regarding extended services.

Please stay safe, follow safety protocol, and let us know if you have any questions by contacting us at: [info@columbusata.org](mailto:info@columbusata.org).

Be Blessed CATA Family.

We're all in this together!

CATA Administration

