



*In the pursuit of excellence...*

# Caledonia Community Schools

Administrative Offices: 9753 Duncan Lake Ave., Caledonia, MI 49316  
Telephone (616) 891-8185 - Fax (616) 891-9253 - [www.calschools.org](http://www.calschools.org)

## CCS Heat / Humidity Day Guidance

August 23, 2021

As most of you already know, the district has one building left with limited or no air conditioning: Dutton Elementary School. Over the years, we have had concerns and issues with high heat / high humidity days that have closed schools or shortened the school day. While we are fortunate to have recently passed a bond that will rectify this issue in the future, we currently must rely on fans and a limited number of portable air conditioners for this location on high heat / high humidity days. A combination of portable air conditioning units and fans will continue to be utilized to help keep the heat from reaching dangerous levels within the buildings on most hot days.

Below you will find a quick guidance chart from the National Weather Service used to develop our own set of procedural guidelines to address heat and humidity challenge days. In summary, the following steps are routinely followed during days of high heat / humidity:

- Recognizing that weather forecasts can vary greatly over the course of a 24 hour period, our staff will frequently monitor the weather forecast and the operations department will deploy fans and portable air condition units on days where the heat index may reach the caution level.
- Our staff has planned for the possibility of building closure(s) or shortened days if the heat index reaches a sustained heat index level of 91 or above (approx. 2+ hours or more during the school day).
- Based on a morning weather forecast check, building principals are advised to limit physical activities on “caution” heat index days. (Physical activity in buildings without air conditioning will be reduced as well as limited physical outdoor activities for all buildings as a means to reduce possible overheating of the body).
- Frequent water breaks throughout the day are advised in “caution” heat index days
- If and when a decision is made to either close school(s) early or completely shut down school(s), our CCS administration team will send out text and email alerts.

Rest assured that we realize that safety is our top priority. We also realize that many families count on our schools to be up and running consistently whenever possible as childcare issues are often a factor for most. Like “snow days”, the district must comply with inclement weather day requirements for the amount of days and hours required under state law.

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As of this communication, we plan to have school as normal tomorrow; however, our staff will continue to monitor the heat / humidity and make adjustments as necessary with regards to exposure and physical activities. If there is a significant swing in the heat / humidity that requires an adjustment to the school schedule, you will receive follow-up communication.

## Guidance Chart from the National Weather Service

| Classification  | Heat Index      | Effect on the body   |
|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| Caution         | 80°F - 90°F     | Fatigue possible with prolonged exposure and/or physical activity  |
| Extreme Caution | 90°F - 103°F    | Heat stroke, heat cramps, or heat exhaustion possible with prolonged exposure and/or physical activity           |
| Danger          | 103°F - 124°F   | Heat cramps or heat exhaustion likely, and heat stroke possible with prolonged exposure and/or physical activity |
| Extreme Danger  | 125°F or higher | Heat stroke highly likely  |

Thank you,

CCS Administrative Team

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