



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

CCS Heat / Humidity Day Guidance

August 24, 2020

As most of you already know, the district has three buildings with limited or no air conditioning: Caledonia, Dutton, and Kettle Lake Elementary Schools. 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 these locations 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 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 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. As of this communication, we plan to have a full day of school tomorrow; however, Wednesday may be a half-day of school. If school is reduced to a half-day, you will receive follow-up communication tomorrow afternoon.

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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