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CCPS students return Aug. 19; families encouraged to prepare

BY JENNY MYERS
THE EAGLE POST

Christian County Public Schools students will return to classrooms Aug. 19 for the start of the 2026-27 school year, ushering in a new chapter for the district with the opening of the new Christian County High School and updated start times across all grade levels.

As families prepare for the first day, director of communications Johnna Brown said the district is encouraging parents to complete Online Registration (OLR), attend open houses and familiarize themselves with



transportation and school procedures before classes begin.

“The first day of school is always an exciting time, and we can’t wait to welcome our students back,” Superintendent Chris Bentzel said. “We want every student to walk into a classroom where they feel supported, encouraged and ready to learn.”

Bentzel said the new school year is especially significant with the opening of the district’s new high school.

“This year marks an exciting new chapter for CCPS with the opening of the new Christian County High School,” he said. “I’m also excited to get back to what we do best, helping students learn, grow and succeed.”

School hours this year will

be 7:10 a.m. to 2:10 p.m. for elementary schools, 8:25 a.m. to 3:25 p.m. for middle schools, 8:05 a.m. to 3:05 p.m. for Christian County High School and 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for Bluegrass Learning Academy.

The district recommends families complete online registration before attending open houses, allowing students and parents to move through check-in lines more quickly. Online registration remains open year-round for both new and returning students.

Parents enrolling a new student can find registration instructions on the district’s

website. New students generally will need a birth certificate, immunization records and any required health, vision or dental screening documentation. All students must also provide three proofs of residency to their school’s office.

School supply lists are available on each school’s website and social media pages. Brown noted that middle and high school teachers may provide additional classroom-specific supply requests, while elementary schools typically organize supply lists by grade level.

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Youth Alaina White (from left), Leah Haley and Amelia Allen, along with 4-H intern Jenna Wethington and camp participant Savannah Ray, work on pizzas Thursday in the kitchen at the Christian County Extension Service.

Youth hone their cooking skills at camp

BY TONYA S. GRACE
THE EAGLE POST

Cayna Garrison learned first-hand how to use a knife and cut vegetables properly.

She learned about the sugar in soda and about making better choices like water.

But one of her favorite lessons at this week’s Superstar Chef Camp was learning about germs from a stuffed animal.

The 25 youth taking part in the camp hosted by the Christian County Extension Service got to know each other while passing around the stuffed animal.

But they also got a revelation when an ultraviolet light revealed the “germs” transferred to their hands from the animal.

“It was just like powder on a toy, but I enjoyed that part,” the young girl said.

A first for the local extension service, this week’s chef camp taught lessons in kitchen safety, nutrition and baking.

Hand washing was also emphasized.

When the youth came back into the room after some physical activity outdoors on Thursday afternoon, they were urged to clean up before gathering in the extension kitchen to make some pizza.

Sarah Drysdale, extension service agent for family and consumer sciences, said the chef camp has given the kids the skills they need to help their parents at home in the kitchen and make their own dishes.

“It’s just something that we’re teaching them skills that they’ll be



Melissa Webb (left) helps young chef Leah Haley in the kitchen at the Christian County Extension Service.

able to continue on and build on as they get older and be self-sufficient adults one day,” she said.

Drysdale, 4-H Youth Development Agent Katie Mills and Melissa Webb, a senior assistant with the extension service’s expanded food and nutrition education program, partnered together to offer the chef camp, which was open to youth ages 9 to 12.

The three were assisted by Hadley Webb, Melissa’s daughter, and by Jenna Wethington, an

intern in the office.

Mills said the three-day program, which kicked off on Tuesday, saw the youth building on nutritional facts they learned.

They had to learn kitchen safety, she noted, including being safe with their kitchen tools, proper handling of meats and how to measure their ingredients.

“Knife safety,” chimed in Webb. “They basically made their entire meals every day this week using

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No repairs to aquatic center, panel says

BY TONYA S. GRACE
THE EAGLE POST

Hopkinsville City Council’s committee of the whole has decided to forego repairs to the existing Bluegrass Splash Family Aquatic Center in favor of a swimming pool at the Planters Bank-Jennie Stuart Sportsplex and a possible splash pad at Tie-breaker Park on the Eagle Way bypass.

The decision followed the presentation of results from a recent online survey offered by the city and revealed Thursday during the city’s committee meeting.

Speaking during that meeting, Parks and Superintendent Toby Hudson told committee members that the city received 1,895 responses to the survey.

Among those, 918, or 48%, were from city residents, according to Hudson.

He said 80% of the respondents favored continuing with a water park or aquatic center, with 79% of city residents also in support of aquatic amenities.

In the survey, 76% preferred building a new facility rather than renovating the community’s existing water park.

The top three choices to include in a new park were a longer lazy river, improved shade and seating and a wave pool.

The survey also addressed what respondents would like to see if the city chose not to invest in the water park, and those replying pointed to a larger indoor pool and splash pad as their top choices.

Public Works Director Mike Perry told committee members on Thursday that an indoor pool, an Olympic-sized

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Public weighs in on data center rules

BY JENNY MYERS
THE EAGLE POST

A proposed zoning ordinance regulating future data center development drew over an hour of public comment Monday as utility representatives, developers and residents offered competing views on how Christian County should prepare for the booming industry.

The Hopkinsville-Christian County Planning Commission held a special-called public hearing on proposed amendments that would regulate where data centers could locate and establish standards for future facilities. No action was taken following the hearing.

The proposed ordinance would classify data centers by size and electrical demand and establish requirements for setbacks, noise, lighting, landscaping, water use and utility infrastructure.

A separate proposal submitted by Hopkinsville Electric System also was discussed during the hearing.

Representatives of Pennyryle Electric and HES argued data centers could help offset future utility costs if companies pay for the infrastructure they require. Pennyryle Electric CEO Alan Gates said data centers should pay “100%” of the costs they create, while HES General Manager Jeff Hurd said an existing cryptocurrency facility has helped the utility avoid rate increases and that a proposed AI facility could fund an estimated \$8 million to \$10 million substation replacement.

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