



Collins-Maxwell Community Schools

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"To prepare responsible individuals for the future through academic and social experiences."

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Dear Collins-Maxwell Community School District family,

This school year, we have been talking about a 4-day school week for a few months. We would like to reiterate why. The short answer is that we need to maintain a full, high-quality staff so Collins-Maxwell can continue teaching students with those teachers in the classroom.

There is a state-wide shortage of available teachers that is predicted to get worse. How does this affect our school district?

- Over the last 3 years, the Middle School Science position has been filled with temporary solutions.
- Last year, we lost our HS Spanish teacher in the first semester and could not replace him until Summer.
- Due to vacancies in Special Education and Title 1 over the past few years, we have had to make do with the teachers that we have.
- The applicant pool is very limited for any open positions.

We compete with other schools and other industries for teachers and staff. Small class sizes at Collins-Maxwell means less funding from the State of Iowa to pay salaries with. This makes it hard to compete with larger schools who can offer more pay.

We have learned that other small schools who switched to a 4-day school week have benefited with more job applicants for open positions. They have also noted ongoing benefits to the staff, resulting in benefits to the students.

We understand that having one less day each week can create challenges for some families. Our administration has been working diligently to find solutions and has found helpful options to assist with food insecurity and childcare.

We love our District, and we want it to continue to succeed for years to come.

Thank you for your continued support of the Collins-Maxwell Community School staff who work so hard to educate and grow our students into future members of our community!

Respectfully,

Collins-Maxwell Community School Board

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