



March 19, 2020

Dear Palisades Community,

If this is the first time you are seeing this communication, I have been sending out a daily briefing that is a compilation of information from the state and county level, in addition to the work being done in our school district. We hope that you find this briefing to be helpful. We will continue to provide information to you using this method of communication for the foreseeable future.

Please access this link for all previous notices sent regarding COVID-19:

[https://www.palisd.org/news/what\\_s\\_new/notices\\_for\\_coronavirus\\_covid-19](https://www.palisd.org/news/what_s_new/notices_for_coronavirus_covid-19)

**DISTRICT INFORMATION:**

Chromebook Distribution: Our technicians have been working on organizing the chromebooks we have on hand for distribution to all of our elementary students. We ordered an additional supply so we have an ample number of devices for distribution. Please complete the attached form if you are interested in receiving a chromebook for your child, and we will prepare it for pick up on the day and location you have indicated - [Elementary Chromebook Request Form](#)

Chromebooks will be distributed at Tincum Elementary School and Palisades High School during the hours of 11AM - 12:30PM (the breakfast and lunch bag disbursement hours) beginning Monday, March 23rd. Chromebooks are available for all elementary-aged students.

Enrichment Opportunities for Students: Please refer to the link below for updated enrichment opportunities for students to keep their skills sharp during our district closure.

[https://www.palisd.org/for\\_parents\\_students/enrichment\\_learning\\_opportunities](https://www.palisd.org/for_parents_students/enrichment_learning_opportunities)

With regard to additional online learning opportunities, as I have stated before, the challenge is providing equitable educational programs and services for all of our students as is required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and School Code. Our administrative team continues to discuss plans and implementation strategies, so that at the end of this closure, we are able to offer workable options for our students. Thank you for your patience as we continue to work through our options and possible delivery methods for all students. In the meantime, I ask you to continue to use the enrichment opportunities linked above for your child.

Lunch/Breakfast Distributions for Students: Tincum Elementary School continues to be the only location approved for distribution for ALL students (grades K-12) in the Palisades School District. This week, we received a waiver from the Pennsylvania Department of Education to begin serving breakfast and lunch "go bags" to K-12 students who qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch.

Therefore, beginning Monday, March 23rd, we will distribute FREE breakfast and lunch "go bags" at Palisades High School for students who qualify for Free and Reduced Lunches. Only qualifying students

will be served at this location; however, all students will continue to be served at Tinicum. Bags will be distributed at these locations from 11AM until 12:30PM.

This new drive through service will be provided at the high school behind the Cybersonics Building on the gold gym/tennis court side of the building. Directional signs will be posted and administrators will be on site to guide you. Again, we are asking that you stay in your vehicle when picking up your food items.

Due to a change in family income, if you feel as though your family may now qualify for Free and Reduced Lunches, please go to this website to complete the application [www.paschoolmeals.com](http://www.paschoolmeals.com) - allow 24 hours after submission of application for notification of approval.



*It's selfie time! Administrators distributing breakfast and lunch bags at Tinicum today!*

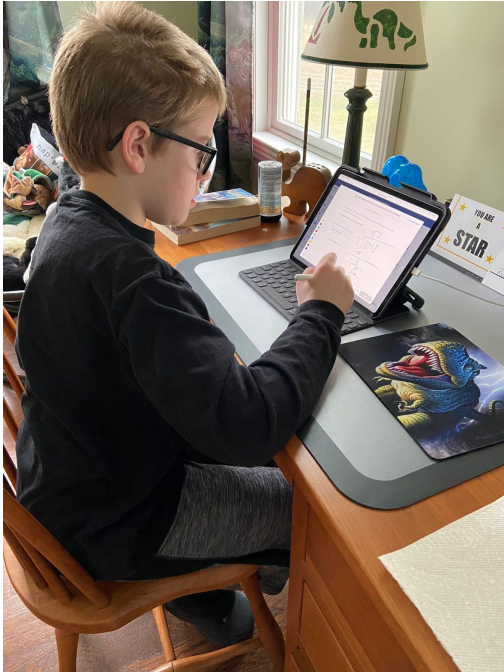
School Board Meetings: At this time, the next regularly scheduled Board meeting will occur on April 1, 2020. More information regarding the details of the meeting including public participation, the meeting agenda and format are forthcoming.

Please be advised that the Education Programs and Services Meeting scheduled for April 8th has been cancelled and the Policy Committee Meeting scheduled for that date will be rescheduled. New date to be announced.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: All parent-teacher conferences which are scheduled for April, will be postponed. Updated information will be sent to parents/guardians.

Using Twitter to Share Learning: Whether using some of the online enrichment activities we've shared or finding ways to learn something new while at home, we'd love to see what you are up to! Feel free to Tweet your picture with a description of what enrichment activity is taking place and use the hashtag **#palisdlearns**

All you need is a Twitter account! You can sign up for one by [following this link](#). We'll like, retweet, and comment on all the great learning that continues to happen throughout the school closure.  
#learningneverstops #palisd



*Ryan is working hard on mastering 5th grade math with Khan Academy #palisdlearns*

#### Standardized Testing Updates:

**SAT:** As of now, the March 25<sup>th</sup> SAT School Day has been postponed. Right now, the April SAT School Days are still being held as scheduled, but CollegeBoard is monitoring everything very closely and will continue to communicate any changes. The SAT test scheduled for May 2nd is cancelled. For updates, please visit the College Board website [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

**AP:** All announcements and updates will be posted [here](#). Testing dates remain as scheduled in May, as long as schools are open. More information will follow on this topic.

#### Community Information:

Notice from Service Electric - they have made a commitment to join the "Keep America Connected" and pledge to:

- Not terminate service to any residential or small business due to the inability to pay their bill.
- Waive late fees that residential or small business customers incur because of their economic circumstance related to the coronavirus pandemic.
- Open its Wi-Fi hotspots to everyone.

Additionally, SECTV will offer FREE 10x5 Internet service for 90 days for new customers during this ongoing national emergency. For more information on modem access and the 60-day financial grace period, please contact a SECTV Customer Service representative at:

Toll Free in PA (800) 232-9100

Toll Free in NJ (800) 225-9102

Palisades Community Foundation 5K: This event scheduled for Saturday, May 16th will be postponed. Stay turned for the new date, however, for your health and safety, it is ok if you are continuing to train and run!

Donations: Again, thank you to all who have reached out to offer support to the Palisades community! Here are just a few ways that you can help (this list is being updated daily):

- St. Jude's Hospital - Comfort Straps for Protective Masks: Here is a link from St. Jude's Hospital for making comfort straps if you sew! Click on this link for more info - <https://www.stjude.org/get-involved/other-ways/volunteer-at-the-hospital/how-to-become-a-volunteer-at-home-projects/mask-straps.html>
- Kremmers is a local community kitchen that has food delivery services and they are in the process of receiving donations, as well as creating a new plan for senior citizens that would allow them to deliver meals for free to homes during this time of need. For more information, please visit <http://www.kremmerscommunitykitchen.com/>
- The Lord's Pantry in Ottsville is in need of the following items - paper products, soap, baby wipes, diapers, Chunky Soups, canned meats, fresh fruits, bagged salads, and any protein items (other than peanut butter). The pantry is open on Mondays from 2-5PM, Tuesdays 9:30-11:30AM, and Thursdays 9:30AM-1:30PM.
- Donations can be made to Palisades Community Foundation (PCF) to help support needs for families in the district. Checks can be made payable to Palisades Community Foundation and mailed to P.O. Box 194, Kintnersville, PA 18930 or you can visit [www.palisadescommunityfoundation.org](http://www.palisadescommunityfoundation.org) - your donations are welcome in any amount and they are tax deductible.
- The United Way has launched a campaign called the Bucks County Recovery Fund to help those who may not be receiving a paycheck at this time. To learn more about this fund organized by the United Way to help families throughout Bucks County, please follow this link: <https://www.uwbucks.org/COVIDrecovery/>
- Please consider donating blood if you are healthy. As a result of the coronavirus many blood drives have been cancelled leading to shortages. Both Miller Keystone Blood Center - <https://www.giveapint.org/> - and the American Red Cross - [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) - are accepting donations. Please contact them directly to schedule your appointment.

The following is updated information provided by Code Blue (for homeless persons): "In order to remain in contact with, and to show support to our homeless neighbors, beginning this Saturday (3/21/20) we will have a Meal Service at the shelter (see address listed below).

There will be a hot meal, personal care items, snacks, drinks, and other items available to pickup. For the protection of our volunteers and to ensure social distancing, we cannot allow guests into the shelter at this time. This meal service will be packed to go upon arrival. We will continue this service every Saturday and Wednesday, from 5pm-6:30pm, at least through April.

*If you know someone who is struggling with homelessness please let us know! If there are any businesses in the area that can donate to go containers we would be very grateful!"*

*The Code Blue Shelter is located in the Masonic Lodge - 501 Broad Street, Quakertown*

In closing, we will continue to keep you updated with our daily briefings throughout this district closure. I hope you are all staying safe and healthy!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bridget O'Connell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Bridget O'Connell  
Superintendent

Email Your Questions: In an effort to be responsive to your questions about this closure, we have set up an email address dedicated to this topic. Responses to items that come through this account will either be included in the daily briefing if they relate to a broader issue or will receive a direct response within 36 hours of receipt. Please use this address for questions and comments related to the current closure [closureconcerns@palisd.org](mailto:closureconcerns@palisd.org)