



March 20, 2020

Dear Palisades Community,

I have been communicating each day this week and will continue to do so next week and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. With warmer weather coming, I hope this message finds you and your family in good health. Here's to Spring!



Flowers are beginning to bloom at Tinicum Elementary!

DISTRICT INFORMATION:

Chromebook Distribution/Repairs:

Our technicians have organized our chromebook inventory for distribution beginning on Monday at PHS. If you have signed up to receive a chromebook for your elementary school student, the distribution will take place at the front of the high school building, so we do not have a traffic back up and interfere with the breakfast/lunch distribution taking place at the rear (courtyard behind the Cyberonics building on the gold gym/tennis court side) of the building.

We have an ample supply of chromebooks for all of our elementary school-aged (grades K-5) students. The chromebook your child receives will have all of the permissions to access the internet which are appropriate for students. Please complete the attached form if you are interested in receiving a

chromebook for your child, and it will be prepared it for pick up on the day and location you have indicated - [Elementary Chromebook Request Form](#)

Please note that chromebooks will be distributed at Tinicum Elementary School and Palisades High School during the hours of 11AM - 12:30PM next week only beginning Monday, March 23rd. Your children need not be present to pick up the chromebooks, however, a form of identification will be required.

If your student has a chromebook that is in need of repair (grades K-12), we will schedule a time for parents/guardians to drop off the chromebook in need of repair and pick up another. Here is a link to the form that all parents/guardians or students (grades K-12) should fill out for chromebook repairs. Swapping chromebooks that are in need of repair are accommodated by appointment ONLY: <http://cbrepair.palisd.org>



IT Getting Chromebooks Ready!

Continued Education and 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

I continue to learn more each day, in talking with my colleagues and other educational leaders at the state and county level, about our ability to adequately provide Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) for our students as required by PA Department of Education (PDE) and School Code. In the meantime, I ask you to continue to use the enrichment opportunities linked above for your child.

AP: The College Board has released a plan for students to participate in Advanced Placement (AP) online testing later this spring. We will continue to monitor this information and contact students who are

enrolled in AP courses. Here is the update that was provided today - [Advanced Placement Testing Updates](#).

SAT: As updated on the College Board website today, “In response to the rapidly evolving situation around the coronavirus (COVID-19), College Board is canceling the May 2, 2020 SAT and SAT Subject Test administration. Makeup exams for the March 14 administration (scheduled for March 28) are also canceled. Students who already registered for May, whose March test centers were closed, or who do not receive March scores because of any irregularities will receive refunds. In the coming days, College Board will share additional information and details directly with registered students and test centers.” For updates, please continue to visit the College Board website www.collegeboard.org.

I also learned yesterday, and communicated with you, that the PSSA and Keystone Tests have been cancelled for this year. This information was released yesterday by the PA Department of Education (PDE) - please see this [link](#) for more information.

Cyber Charter Schools: All public and private schools in the Commonwealth remain closed by order of the Governor; this includes cyber charter schools. I am attaching a copy of a letter sent by the PA Department of Education (PDE) to the cyber charter schools. Here is an excerpt of that letter dated March 19, 2020.

“Since Monday, several cyber charter schools have indicated through social media, parent communications, and other means that they have reopened, or intend to reopen, instructional programming. In certain cases, an “approval from the Department” has been referenced in these plans. To be clear, under the current order from the Governor, no school in Pennsylvania is permitted or authorized to reopen. Your school, like all other public schools, may plan for and pursue continuity of education; however, PDE does not approve local continuity of education plans.”

Click here for the full letter: [\(PDE letter attached separately\)](#)

Lunch/Breakfast Distributions for Students: As reported previously, Tincum Elementary School will continue to distribute FREE bagged breakfasts/lunches for ALL students (grades K-12) in the Palisades School District.

Starting Monday, March 23rd, we will distribute FREE breakfast and lunch “go bags” at Palisades High School for students only who qualify for Free and Reduced Lunches. Although only qualifying students will be served at the high school, all students will continue to be served at Tincum. 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. You will be asked to provide your name at pick up.

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 - allow 24 hours after submission of application for notification of approval.



Distributing breakfast and lunch today at Tinicum!

Thanks to the ladies and gents from the cafeterias, maintenance and administration!

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.

Again, please note 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.

Social/Emotional Resources and Activities for Students: Our elementary school counselors have prepared a handout for families to help our youngest students understand what is happening and why they are at home instead of school, while providing activities and exercises to stay calm during this stressful time.

(PDF linked separately)

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



Caleb and Noah working on graphing backyard birds and math sheets!

COMMUNITY INFORMATION:

Census Application: Please respond to the census. We are all reminded to participate in this important process that occurs every decade to count our country's population.

From the Census website: "The U.S. census counts every resident in the United States. It is mandated by Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution and takes place every 10 years. The data collected by the census determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives (a process called apportionment) and is also used to distribute billions in federal funds to local communities."

Follow this link to complete your application - <https://2020census.gov/en.html>

COVID-19 Testing Site: A testing site has opened at the previous St. Luke's Quakertown location, 10th Street and Park Avenue.

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 regularly):

- 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 - 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 - are accepting donations. Please contact them directly to schedule your appointment.

Online Access for Newspapers: Local online newspapers, including Courier Times, Intelligencer and the Morning Call, are allowing free logon for articles related to COVID-19.

Online Resources for Drug/Alcohol Recovery: Attached please find a listing of resources for those who are in recovery. There are many online opportunities to connect.

(PDF linked separately)

Meals for Senior Citizens: The Agency on Aging reports that all home delivered meals consumers will still be receiving their meals weekly. Anyone who was receiving a hot meal daily has been changed over to frozen meal packs during this time. This was done to cut back on having someone come to their home daily. Also the seniors received a 7 day shelf stable meal pack to their homes between last week and this week. Finally, we are making sure that all volunteers are taking every safety precaution when delivering meals and no one is entering anyone's home.

Best wishes to you and your families, and I will resume our daily updates on Monday.

Warm regards,



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