



March 23, 2020

Dear Palisades Community,

As we are in week two of our district closure, and today, the Governor announced that schools will remain closed until April 6th, work is underway to prepare for online learning opportunities for students in the near future.

In preparation, elementary-aged students are beginning to receive chromebooks - we started distribution today and will continue through the remainder of this week. Also, our teachers have been asked to participate in virtual professional development on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week with their building administrators and colleagues.

Thank you for your continued support of our efforts and for sharing other learning opportunities on social media, as well as photos of your children participating in activities throughout this district closure.

Again, here is the link to the enrichment opportunities compiled for our students to use during this week of our district-wide closure: [https://www.palisd.org/for\\_parents\\_students/enrichment\\_learning\\_opportunities](https://www.palisd.org/for_parents_students/enrichment_learning_opportunities)

Also, I want to thank my administrative team, the cafeteria and custodial staff, our emergency management groups (police, fire and townships) and our school board members for continuing to focus on keeping our community safe and keeping district operations moving during this very stressful time.



*Scott Davis, Marie Collie, Adam Whitmer and Matt Patterson distributing chromebooks in today's rain!*

**DISTRICT INFORMATION:**

Chromebook Distribution/Repairs:

Today, we were able to distribute more than 170 chromebooks and have had 350 requests for elementary students. We will continue to distribute chromebooks this week to all elementary school-aged 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 this 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.

Again, 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>

To sanitize your device, please use a “rung out” disinfectant wipe (ie. Clorox wipe) or a 70% isopropyl alcohol wipe on the device, being careful not to get moisture into ports or too much on the keyboard. Also, 70% isopropyl rubbing alcohol can be used with a soft rag to clean the parts of the Chromebook, again being sure not to saturate the rag.

Lunch/Breakfast Distributions for Students: Today, we began distributing FREE breakfast and lunch “go bags” at Palisades High School for students only who qualify for Free and Reduced Lunches. Although only qualifying students are being served at the high school, all students will continue to be served at Tinicum. Bags will be distributed at these locations from 11AM until 12:30PM.

The new drive through service will be provided at the high school on the gold gym/tennis court side of the building. Upon arrival, please follow the posted signs and one of our administrators will provide students with breakfast/lunch.

Once again, we are asking that you stay in your vehicle when picking up your food items. You will be asked to provide your name when picking up food items at the high school.

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.

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. Other meeting dates for April:

- April 1 - Policy Committee - CANCELLED
- April 8 - Education Programs and Services - CANCELLED
- April 15 - Poli Committee - 6PM
- April 15 - Regular School Board Meeting - 7PM
- April 16 - Joint Operating Committee (Tech School) 7PM

April 22 - Facilities Committee - 6:30PM

April 22 - Athletic Committee - 7:30PM

UPDATED - Social/Emotional Resources, Activities and Call Center Information for Students and Families: Our school counselors have prepared a handout for families to help 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. Please see them linked below:

(PDF linked separately)



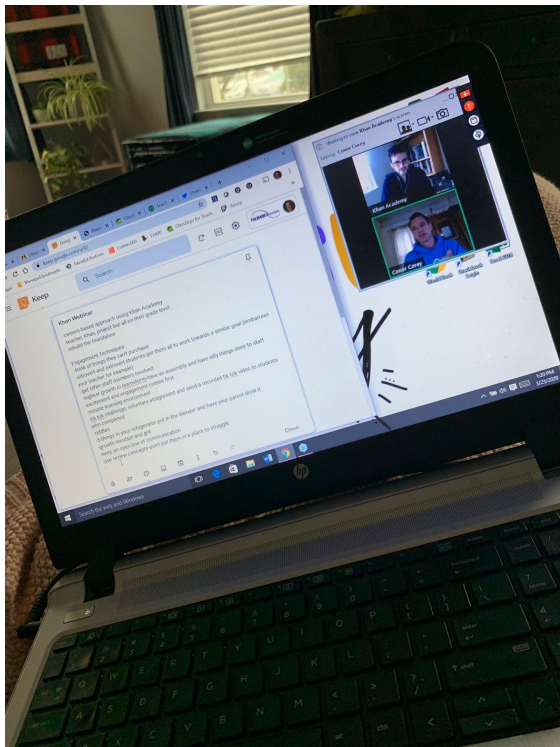
*Here is an idea, how about a virtual play date!*

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



*Eleanor is practicing writing her numbers up to 100!*



*Ms. Stevens participating in Khan Academy Web Learning Activity*

**COMMUNITY INFORMATION:**

Earned Income Tax Deadline Postponed: As in years past, the local EIT filing deadline always aligned with the Federal and State filing deadlines. You are likely aware that the PA Department of Revenue announced this morning that Pennsylvania's filing deadlines were indeed extended to July 15, like the Federal deadlines. For local EIT purposes, Keystone is accordingly extending the Individual filing deadlines to match the State and Federal date of July 15, 2020. We will not apply penalty and interest on Tax Year 2019 Final Return payments until after July 15.

Homemade Medical Masks: Pennsylvania Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine was asked about home-sewn masks during a news conference on Monday. She said the offers are "an example of the compassion of people in Pennsylvania and their wanting to give." However, she said healthcare workers need N95 masks, which are known for their ability to filter out very tiny particles such as viruses. She said homemade masks wouldn't be safe enough.

Blood Donations: Many blood drives are being canceled, however if you are healthy, please consider contacting these organizations to donate: 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.

Lord's Pantry in Ottsville is in need of donations 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.

Palisades Community Foundation (PCF) is accepting monetary donations to help support needs for families in the district - helping to support meals for senior citizens, providing assistance to the Pantry in Ottsville, or other opportunities for our 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.

Online Resources for Drug/Alcohol Recovery: Attached please find an updated listing of resources for those who are in recovery released by the PA Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs. There are many online opportunities to connect.

(See COVID DDAP Flyer linked below)

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: 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)