



March 25, 2020

Dear Palisades Community,

It has been nearly two weeks since our students have been out of school, and we are ready to welcome them back into their “virtual” classrooms beginning Monday, March 30th. Palisades administrators, faculty and staff have been working diligently to create a learning environment that is engaging, while keeping all children safe in their homes.

The goal of our online education program is to continue the academic and social growth of Palisades students in an effort to bring about some level of continuity and normalcy to their education . As we all acclimate to this new mode of education, we know that there will be challenges but we will support our families and our students through this process.

To that end, this evening I sent a [Distance Learning for Families FAQ](#) to help our families navigate this new avenue of learning for students.

DISTRICT INFORMATION:

Chromebook Distribution/Repairs: To date, we have received 444 requests thus far for our elementary school students who are in need of a chromebook. If you have not yet placed your reservation to receive one, you may do so by completing this form - [Elementary Chromebook Request Form](#) (Your children are welcome to use their own devices; however, the district devices come loaded with our applications and settings for students as well as filtering for your child’s protection.)

If you are unable to complete the form, you may contact Donna Holmes at 610-847-5131, ext. 2401 so that we can get the request placed for the needed device.

PLEASE NOTE: We are trying to assess the number of families who DO NOT HAVE reliable internet service. If you do not have access to the internet, or you know of a student who does not have internet service, please call (or have the child’s parent/guardian) call 610-847-5131, ext. 2401. We will try to work with you to assist to the best of our ability.

Again, chromebooks are being distributed at Tinicum Elementary School and Palisades High School during the hours of 11AM - 12:30PM this week only. Your children need not be present to pick up the chromebooks, however, a form of identification will be required.

In preparation for online learning beginning next week, 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. Again, swapping chromebooks that are in need of repair are accommodated by appointment ONLY: <http://cbrepair.palisd.org>

To sanitize your device, please use a “rugged” 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: As you know, we are distributing FREE breakfast and lunch “go bags” at Palisades High School for students only who qualify for Free and Reduced Lunches, and serving ALL students at Tinicum Elementary School. So far, 995 breakfasts/lunches have been distributed. Bags are being distributed at these locations from 11AM until 12:30PM Monday through Friday for the duration of this week (through March 27th). On Friday, breakfasts/lunches will be distributed for the student’s weekend.

Beginning immediately, we are able to distribute breakfasts/lunches at Tinicum Elementary for all children in our district and surrounding areas - pre-kindergarten to age 18. Please help us to spread the word of this change. Tinicum has been deemed as an “area eligible site” for food distribution.

Starting next Monday (March 30th), at the distribution locations, our schedule will change to distributing breakfasts and lunches on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. On each of these days, breakfasts/lunches will be distributed for the upcoming (off) day. Therefore, on Monday and Wednesday, students will receive 2 breakfasts/lunches, and on Friday, you will receive 3 breakfasts/lunches.

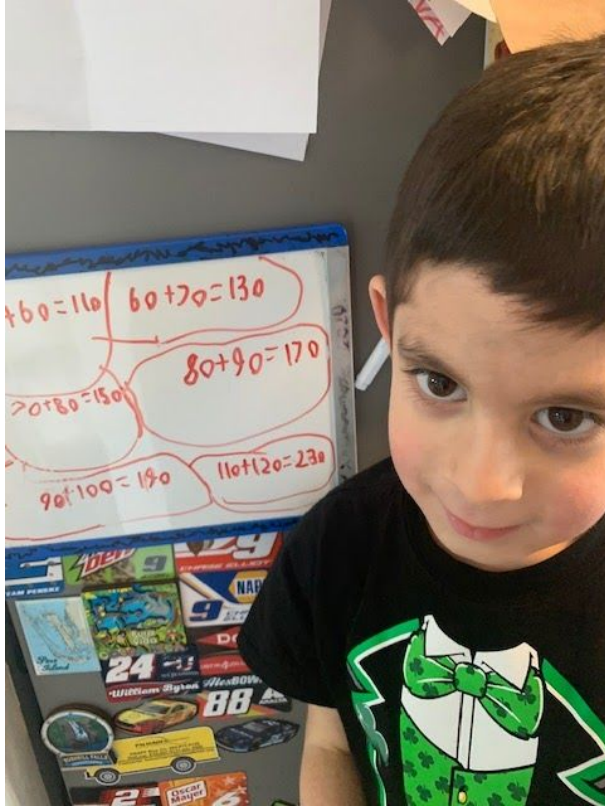
Please stay in your vehicle when picking up your food items. You will be asked to provide your name when picking up food items at the high school.

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.

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 - Fiscal 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

Upper Bucks County Technical School (UBCTS): Please see the attached message for our UBCTS students and their families. **Document linked below**



#palisdlearns One of our kindergarten students and future engineers!



#palisdlearns - Thanks to the Santoro family for sharing the love!

COMMUNITY INFORMATION:

St. Luke's Hospitals are accepting donations for personal protective and other equipment. Please see this link for more information about how you can donate: [Click Here](#)



April 3
8 am – 4 pm

April 4
6:30 am – 1 pm

April 5
6:30 am – 1 pm

Miller-Keystone Blood Center
1465 Valley Center Parkway, Bethlehem, PA 18017

**St. Luke's University Health Network and the
Lehigh Valley IronPigs are partnering with
Miller-Keystone to host a blood drive!**

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, blood supplies have become critically low. Please support our upcoming blood drive. During this time and because of social distancing, we ask that you please make an appointment.

Follow this link to make an appointment:

<https://go.activecalendar.com/sluhn/event/st-lukes-and-ironpigs-blood-drive-at-miller-keystone/>

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 - 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 - your donations are welcome in any amount and they are tax deductible.

Once again, thank you for your continued support of our schools and personnel as we get ready to deliver instruction beginning next week.

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