



March 26, 2020

Dear Palisades Community,

We are working to begin online learning with our students starting on Monday, March 30th. That said, faculty and administration have been meeting over the last two days and will continue to do so tomorrow to plan instruction that will meet the needs of our students to the best of our ability. As I said yesterday, 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 along the way, but we will support our families and our students through this process.

I cannot stress enough the importance of flexibility on everyone's part. This new modality of learning may be easier for some rather than others. We really need to exercise patience with each other as we embark on this new mission. We will do our part in doing our best to serve our students. My wish is that your children continue to stay engaged in learning and that your family stays in good mental and physical health in the weeks to come.

Please note that our communication regarding moving forward with online learning and the details attached to this endeavor has been posted on our website www.palisd.org on the bottom left of the home page. It is entitled Palisades Learns.

DISTRICT INFORMATION:

Chromebook Distribution/Repairs: We continue to fill the 500 requests for elementary chromebooks that we have received. 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.

Again, chromebooks are being distributed at Tinicum Elementary School and Palisades High School during the hours of 11AM - 12:30PM this week. Your children need not be present to pick up the chromebooks. ID is no longer required to pick up your reserved chromebook.

We will continue to distribute chromebooks into next week, however, the location starting next week (March 30th) will be Durham Nockamixon Elementary, and the timeframe may change. Please stay tuned to further updates.

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.

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 "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: 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 Tincum Elementary School. 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. We have distributed 1100 meals so far during our district closure!

Beginning immediately, we are able to distribute breakfasts/lunches at Tincum 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. Tincum has been deemed as an "area eligible site" for food distribution for all children.

Starting next Monday (March 30th), at the two 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.

For the safety of everyone, please stay in your vehicle when picking up your food items. Children no longer need to be with you when picking up breakfast/lunch bags.

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.

Mental Health Resources: Our counselors have compiled a number of resources for students and families during this very difficult time. Please follow this link for a listing of resources: https://www.palisd.org/departments/pupil_services/services/mental_health_crisis_resources

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. **Linked below**

Fun Video: This is how Brittany Baumeister - Music Teacher at PALMS - gets kids excited about virtual learning:

BAUMEISTER MUSIC VIDEO BELOW

COMMUNITY INFORMATION:

Penn Foundation: Penn Foundation is continuing to provide therapy, either telephonically or with Zoom, with ongoing clients in addition to taking on new clients. Please call Penn Foundation at 215-257-6551. They are also posting a virtual yoga class on Facebook at 11:30AM if you are interested.

Information from St. Luke's: The hospitals within Bucks County have been meeting at least once a week to review the impact of COVID-19 on our communities. The hospitals continue to work with County health officials developing plans to handle the potential surge of patients. This collaborative, structured approach is unique to Bucks County. Hospitals are regularly monitoring their Personal Protective Equipment levels and taking appropriate steps to ensure that staff has the equipment needed to provide safe, direct patient care. As a group, we are still working on securing donations from the community of cloth or other safety masks. Cloth masks are used throughout St. Luke's hospitals, outpatient centers and practice offices by non-direct patient care staff to provide protection to low risk employees. If you or someone you know would like to assist with donations of Personal Protective Equipment, please visit <https://www.slhn.org/covid-19/covid-19-donations>.

How can you help? The best thing to do is to help deliver our messages to the community where you live and work. The hospitals of Bucks County encourage our community to follow CDC guidelines and wash their hands often, practice social-distancing and stay home if they are sick. If anyone is experiencing symptoms that may be caused by COVID-19 (shortness of breath, coughing and fever) we ask they first call their primary care provider. If they do not have a primary care provider, encourage them to call our Hotline, 1-866-STLUKES (785-8537), option 7, to speak with a nurse who will assess their symptoms.

IF YOU HAVE A DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT, MAKE SURE YOU KEEP IT whether it's COVID related or not. Call your doctor's office – you may be able to have a virtual visit.

St. Luke's has been leveraging our multiple social media accounts to assist with getting our messaging out. We are posting several times a day and will continue to do so in an effort to provide information, answer questions and to be a resource to all of our community, regardless of whether or not they are a

patient of St. Luke's. If you have an account on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or LinkedIn, please feel free to LIKE and SHARE our posts to help us get health and safety information to as many people as possible.

If you would like more information about St. Luke's COVID-19 response and preparedness, please visit our website at www.sluhn.org/covid-19. The website is updated multiple times a day so I encourage you to use this as a resource for yourself and your family and friends.



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.

The Bucks County Opportunity Council is holding a FOOD DRIVE for our food pantry network!

To help keep the shelves stocked during this time, we ask that you collect and donate what you can.

When: Wednesday, April 1, from 9 AM—12 PM

Where: 100 Doyle Street, Doylestown.

Donate In Person: We will have a truck in our lot so you can load items in the truck yourself, OR we can unload from your vehicle for you. We ask that ONLY one designated person bring the food to drop off, to minimize contacts.

OR

Donate Online:

<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/gendonation>

BCOC purchases food in bulk, making your donation go even further!



Contact:
Heather Foor,
hfoor@bcoc.org



What to Donate:

***NO GLASS CONTAINERS!**

***UNEXPIRED** – check dates before donating!

Canned Vegetables	Rice	Granola Bars
Tuna	Pasta	Jelly
Beans	Fruit Juice (100%)	Canned Chicken
Canned Salmon	Breakfast Cereal	Soups
Canned Pasta	Peanut Butter	Applesauce
Oatmeal	Powdered Milk	Canned Fruit

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 on Monday.

Warm regards,

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