



March 28, 2020

Dear Palisades Community,

This will be my last regular community brief as we are heading into our online instruction program at Palisades and we are all “back in school” virtually beginning on Monday, March 31st. The Patch, our weekly district-wide communication, will start again next week, as will other communications for parents/guardians from our building principals and our teachers. We are very excited about our new platform for education! On Friday, we had a virtual spirit week with our staff, to have some fun as we take the leap into online instruction! Here is the link to a video that was created to showcase our staff photos posted on Twitter with their inspirational messages.

(See Video Attached below)

We are all working together, providing tips and sharing tools that will help our students to be successful. 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 hope that you all remain healthy and safe! I look forward to seeing the work that our students are doing online and I am truly grateful for the work that our teachers and administrators have done in preparation for this next step! We are all in this together!

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](#)

We will continue to distribute chromebooks next week at Durham Nockamixon Elementary School between 1 and 2 PM.

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>

Continue to sanitize your device, using 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: We are continuing to distribute 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. Bags will continue to be distributed at these locations from 11AM until 12:30PM Monday, Wednesday and Friday for the duration of district closure.

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.

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 for all children.

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 and stay well: 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 and format are forthcoming. Other meeting dates for April:

April 1 - Regular School Board Meeting - 7PM - Click here for [AGENDA](#)
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

Standardized Testing: We are still awaiting official word from CollegeBoard regarding the April 14th SAT school test scheduled for 11th grade students. We will update as soon as official notice is provided.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION:

Department of Health Bulletins: The PA DOH has released two bulletins for help coping with COVID-19 concerns. Please find them linked below:

(See flyers attached below)

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 daily 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