

Support services:

If your child has been watching the news over the past week, they have undoubtedly witnessed images of violence and unrest about which they may have questions. I, too, am troubled by the current events occurring across the country and understand the complexity of these incidents are difficult to process, especially for children. Please know that our guidance counselors are available if your child needs assistance. Do not hesitate to reach out to your child's school counselor directly or contact your child's building principal. I want to make sure that everyone knows that they are not alone and support is available for our students.

Red to Yellow Phase:

As of Friday, Bucks County will move into the yellow phase; with that change will come the following rules for using outdoor facilities only at Palisades. The following message will be posted at each of our playgrounds and other outdoor district facilities.

Beginning on **Saturday, June 6th** the following rules must be followed by residents of the Palisades community in order to use outdoor district facilities:

Health and safety requirements for public usage:

1. Play at your own risk
2. Facility usage is limited to no more than 25 people at a time
3. All participants are responsible to sanitize their hands prior to, and after, usage of the equipment
4. Sick participants should not use the equipment
5. Social distancing at all times should be followed between participants
6. No physical contact including no handshakes, fist bumps or high fives
7. No spitting or gum chewing

The Health Department also recommends a mask or face covering for everyone, especially those that may be in situations where they are unable to fully social distance from others. This applies to everyone other than small children (under 2), or those with medical conditions that may preclude the safe wearing of a face covering.

No organized sports practices are authorized to use district facilities without expressed written permission from the Athletic Director (AD).

Any team that uses district facilities without express written permission from the AD, or in a manner not approved by the AD, jeopardizes their future use of district facilities.

Local authorities will be contacted for unauthorized use and/or failure to follow posted rules. These facilities are under 24 hour video surveillance.

2020-2021 school year:

At this time, all indicators from state and county levels are that we will open schools for face to face instruction. Plans for what that will look like to support the health and safety of students, faculty and staff as well as instructional delivery are forthcoming.

Meals Update:

By the end of this school year, we will have distributed approximately 25,000 breakfasts and lunches during our school closure. We will continue to distribute at both the high school and Tinicum Elementary School on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays through June 12th.

Beginning June 15th, breakfast and lunch distribution will continue on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays throughout the summer at the high school only. Pick up times will remain between 11AM and 12:30PM on those days each week. At those times, we will continue to distribute enough food for the non-pick up days of the week and the weekends.

PCF Meals:

Each week the Palisades Community Foundation (PCF) continues to distribute nearly 350 meals to community members. If you or someone you know can benefit from the Palisades Community Foundation's weekly meal distribution, please go to www.palisadescommunityfoundation.org to sign up. These free meals are being supported by generous donations from our community members. If you are interested in making a donation to their COVID-19 Relief Fund, you can do so by visiting their web site.

Gifts for Teachers:

I have received several questions regarding end of the year gift giving and would like to offer the following advice. If you are considering a small gift for your child's teacher at the end of the school year, you might wish to consider a gift to a local charity in the teacher's name. Local charities like the Palisades Community Foundation (COVID-19 Relief Fund), Meals on Wheels, your child's school PTA/O, or the PHS Sports Boosters or Band Boosters, would be greatly appreciated. You could also make a small donation to fulfill a classroom wish list; a gift card may help the teacher purchase the item(s) needed. Your generosity is always appreciated, although a simple thank you for their work and commitment is certainly a welcome gesture.

Graduation Ceremonies:

Special congratulations, not only to our Seniors in the Class of 2020, but also to those students who are ending their elementary school years and being promoted from 5th grade, and those who are ending middle school and entering 9th grade next year. These are milestones for our students that we celebrate as a community and a Palisades family!

Details of the virtual celebrations will be posted on our website and will be communicated by our building principals.

My best to you and your families,

Bridget O'Connell

Dr. Bridget O'Connell
Superintendent