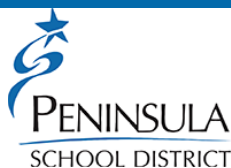


March 12, 2020



Peninsula School District will close starting Tuesday, March 17

As you know, we are facing an unprecedented public health crisis in our community. We know it has been a stressful few weeks as the situation evolves on a daily basis.

Governor Jay Inslee has now ordered the closure of all schools in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties, beginning Tuesday, March 17. This closure is due to public health's direction to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Starting Tuesday, March 17, all PSD schools will close indefinitely. Public health officials have told us to expect to remain closed for a minimum of 6 weeks. Please note, tomorrow, Friday, March 13 is a non-student day as normally scheduled.

We have kept our schools open as long as possible, as recommended by state and local public health authorities, but now this situation has changed. We understand that this will create hardship for many families, and we appreciate your patience and cooperation. We know the school day is the center of the lives of many people in our community.

Contemplating weeks without that structure and care may seem overwhelming. Please know that we are doing our very best to make decisions that will help care for all of us through this time.

What this Means for Students

Monday will be the last day of school until the end of April or until we are otherwise directed to open. We will ask students to bring home personal items, including musical instruments. For those students in grades 5-12 participating in Peninsula Possibilities where students have a Chromebook, we will ask students to take those devices and power cords home with them on Monday.

Our plan is to provide learning support materials in addition to the online learning resources. These are not meant to be a substitute for classroom instruction, but will help students practice their skills and learn independently during the closure.

We are finalizing plans to support our families during the closure in the following ways:

- Providing meals to our students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals and any student who has a need.
- Providing childcare for our families who need to continue working during our closure.
- Providing support to our 12th grade students to ensure they complete graduation requirements.

Public Health Guidance

We encourage you to continue to follow existing guidelines to protect the health of you and your family. The Centers for Disease Control recommends that you:

- Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds; use alcohol-based sanitizer if no water is available
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact (within 6 feet) with those who are sick
- Stay home if sick
- Cover cough or sneeze with tissue, throw tissue in trash, wash hands
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched object and surfaces

Stay Connected

As part of our coronavirus response, we will be sending frequent updates with information and resources via email, text messages, the PSD website and social media channels.

We want to express our appreciation for the patience of our Peninsula School District community as we work through the daily challenges the coronavirus has presented us.

Thank you.



#WEarePSD

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