

March 16, 2020

COVID-19 and the State of the District - Update #1

Dear PSD families:

We understand the stress and uncertainty the coronavirus pandemic has brought to our whole community. Although our operational priorities have shifted due to school closures, our main priority remains the same: take care of our PSD staff and students.

We are committed to keeping our district community informed and will send daily communications to help everyone stay updated on what's happening during school closures due to the coronavirus pandemic.

As you are aware, information regarding the coronavirus pandemic is changing on a daily basis. As a school system, the Peninsula School District's leadership team is working hard to respond to these changes and coordinate planning, decision-making, and communications regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Our charge is to respond to the directions provided last week by Governor Inslee to assist our community with specific services while schools are closed until Monday, April 27.

Governor Inslee has directed school districts to help slow the spread of coronavirus and prioritize their operations by:

- Continuing to feed students;
- Providing childcare for first responders; and
- Ensuring the class of 2020 graduates as planned.

Priority #1 - Continuing to Feed Students

Peninsula School District will be offering free meals to all children 18 and under beginning Tuesday, March 17. Lunches will be grab and go sack lunch style, with either a sandwich or wrap with fruit, vegetables, and milk. Lunches will be provided at the following sites for pickup Monday-Friday between 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.: Artondale Elementary; Evergreen Elementary; Purdy Elementary; Key Peninsula Middle School; and Gig Harbor High School.

Meal stations will be located near the front of each school to encourage social distancing. Meals must be taken to go, as we cannot have groups congregate to eat on-site.

Students must be present to receive a lunch, and do not need to qualify for free or reduced meals to receive a meal. No forms or registration are required.

Pre-ordering is not necessary, but meal orders can be submitted online by clicking [HERE](#).

If you cannot get to one of the offered sites or your student has dietary restrictions, please contact Katie Walters at waltersk@psd401.net.

We will be adding breakfast soon and will provide details in a future update.

Priority #2 - Provide Childcare to First Responders

We are currently working on plans for providing childcare to first responders, while still keeping the enforcement of social distancing and not gathering in large groups in mind. Guidance on this topic will come out later this week from OSPI and the Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families.

Priority #3 - Ensuring the Class of 2020 Graduates as Planned

We are committing to working with the state so that our seniors who are on track to graduate this June can do so. Guidance on this topic will come out later this week from state officials.

Other Questions and Answers

We appreciate the many people who have provided questions, concerns, and comments through our hotline (253-530-1111) and online form (click [HERE](#)). We want you to know we are working diligently to answer all questions; however, many answers are still unknown as we continue to wait for guidance from Governor Inslee's office, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), and the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department. The district must comply with their directions, and are communicating daily with these agencies for updates.

Other items we are working diligently on include:

- Developing a safe way for families and students to pick up musical instruments, medications, and personal items from their schools;

- Resources for families to keep kids learning during the school closure;
- Elementary report cards; and
- How to keep staff safe and healthy amidst the coronavirus outbreak.

We appreciate your continued patience and partnership as we navigate through these uncharted waters. Please continue to use the hotline and online link so that we can accurately track questions and take names for possible volunteer opportunities. We hear you, and will respond as quickly as we have answers.

Please know PSD's goal is to act with the utmost care for the continuing safety and education of our students and staff.

Please stay tuned!

#WEarePSD

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