

March 18, 2020



COVID-19 and the State of the District - Update #3

Dear staff and families,

Thank you for your patience as we work on the focus areas outlined for school districts by Governor Jay Inslee last week. Here is the latest update on what we've been working on.

Nutrition program - breakfast and lunch

Our nutrition program is successfully up and running. Starting Monday, March 23, lunches will also include breakfast for the next day. [Click here](#) to pre-order meals for the following day.

PSD childcare - children of first responders and healthcare workers

Based on Governor Inslee's directive to provide support to our health care workers, the Peninsula School District is partnering with the YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties to provide childcare for healthcare staff and first responders. Beginning Monday, March 23, care for impacted families will be available Monday through Friday from 6:30 am to 6:30 pm, at both Harbor Heights and Purdy, with additional locations available as the need develops. Interested families can call (253) 530-1038 or email burlesond@psd401.net.

At-home education resources

Today we posted age-appropriate at-home resources on our website to help students and families get started with learning while schools are closed. We've also included a suggested daily schedule of activities. Check out this [link](#).

At-home learning opportunities vs. distance learning

We have also been focused on designing expectations for classroom educators to provide resources for students to support at-home learning opportunities. To be in alignment with Governor Inslee and the Office of

Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), at this time we are not ready to implement a distance learning model which replicates normal classroom instruction.

OSPI has developed a list of requirements which districts and schools must meet to successfully implement a distance learning model. These are outlined in the OSPI statement below.

“OSPI does not recommend closed schools transition to an online distance model unless the district can ensure each of the considerations below can be met.

These include, but are not limited to:

- Ensuring all students in the school or district will have equal access to the learning and required materials, including technology.*
- Ensuring the online learning system can effectively support the district’s different learning and teaching needs, including the ability to provide differentiated instruction as well as one-on-one support for students who need it. Regardless of where the learning is happening, supports identified on a student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) must be provided if the district is operating.*
- Ensuring the requirements of full-day kindergarten are met.*
- Ensuring students can access the assessments associated with dual credit coursework.*
- Providing training to staff, students, and parents and guardians on how the system works and what expectations the district has.*
- The ability to track the attendance of both students and staff.*
- Ensuring the systems in use are secure and will not allow for the release of protected student or staff information.*
- The ability to provide school meals.*

Taking a traditional school environment online is not a simple task – nor is it one that should be attempted without serious consideration of the practicality and risk.”

Currently, we are continuing to work toward meeting all of the items listed above. We recognize the varying opinions on this topic, however, as a public agency, we must abide by directions we've received from our elected officials.

Staff are preparing to support at-home learning opportunities

Starting tomorrow, March 19, educators in all schools will be collaborating to develop and share resources to enrich learning for students during this closure. The purpose of at-home learning opportunities is not to engage students in new content but to provide opportunities to enrich learning. Please know students will not be given assignments or grades.

In addition, educators will clearly communicate the days and times they will be accessible to students and families. We feel it is important for our educators to continue building relationships with students and families as well as support their at-home learning while schools are closed due to the coronavirus crisis. Look for more information from your school soon.

What else are teachers and staff working on?

We are encouraging classroom educators to continue collaborating with colleagues weekly for the purpose of sharing the learning resources developed for their grade level or department/subject. In addition, this is an opportunity for the district to support their professional development selection by exploring educational topics of interest.

Elementary and middle school report cards

Be sure to check your email inbox next week. Elementary and middle school report cards will be emailed to families on Tuesday, March 24.

Remind App

The district is setting up the Remind App for all teachers, to allow them to communicate with families in a consistent way via text message. Remind will pull the contact information currently in the Parent Portal, so please review your contact information [here](#). We recommend making your primary phone number a cell phone so you can receive text messages. If you have questions, please email powerschool@psd401.net and include identifying information so we can ensure we are communicating with the correct guardians.

Again, we appreciate your patience as we tackle the many issues associated with school closure due to the coronavirus pandemic. We value you as your student's first educator, and we look forward to continuing being a resource for you at home, today and over the coming weeks.

