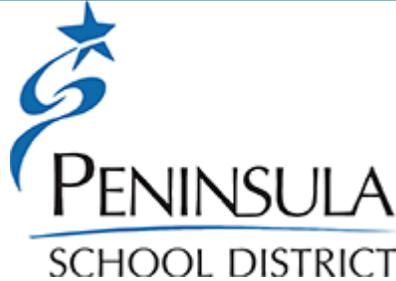


March 20, 2020



COVID-19 and the State of the District #5 - March 20

Dear PSD staff and families,

Remind is coming to your phone this weekend!

What's Remind? Remind is popular, easy to use mobile messaging platform. This weekend, all parent/student contact information will be loaded into Remind. Remind is already used by hundreds of PSD teachers to quickly and easily communicate with parents and students via text message, a mobile app, and now through phone calls.

We have heard from so many teachers and parents about the simplicity of Remind that we decided this week to make it available as a district-supported application. You may get a text message about accepting messages from Remind if you have never done that before when we load parent information this weekend.

Below you will also find some links explaining Remind and how to opt out of class messages if you so choose. If you do decide to opt out of class messages, we still will have the ability to contact you in an emergency with Remind, but we expect to use that very infrequently.

If you have any questions on how to interact with your teachers on Remind, please check out Remind.com and as teachers become more comfortable with the tool, they will be able to assist you as well.

- [Getting Started for Parents Video](#)
- [How to opt out of class messages](#)

Pierce County Library System resources for students and families

The [Pierce County Library System](#) has many online e-sources and live tutors. [Tools for Students](#) provides the help students need while learning from their homes. Students and parents can get a free [library card online](#) and start using it today to access these online resources as well as [download](#) e-books, audiobooks, and magazines.

The following online homework resources give students credible and easy to navigate information:

[HelpNow](#): Speak with professional real-time, online tutors and get expert help on essays to calculus.

- [Gale Virtual Reference Library](#): Access hundreds of full-text electronic books covering a wide range of subjects from biography and business to law and literature.
- [Gale Biography in Context](#): Review brief biographies with links to articles in newspapers, magazines and websites.
- [Culture Grams](#): Explore the cultures of hundreds of countries, provinces and states, including famous people and recipes.
- [Gale Opposing Viewpoints in Context](#): Compare opinions, articles and reference materials about controversial topics.
- [Science Online from Infobase](#): Discover experiments, videos, biographies and science research.
- [Pronunciator](#): Learn nearly 90 languages.
- [SIRS Discoverer](#): Access research for middle and elementary students incorporating articles from 1,400+ publications and selected topic websites.

Parents may also find [booklists](#) for every grade to help improve student-reading levels – many books are available [online](#). Find these and other learning resources at [tools.pcls.us](#).

PSD Grab and Go meals now include breakfast

To support families during the school closure, Peninsula School District offers free meals to all children 18 and under.

Meals are available 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 are located near the front of each school to encourage social distancing. Students must be present to receive a meal. Students do not need to qualify for free or reduced meals to receive meals, and 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, please contact 253-530-1016 for additional information. Questions can be emailed to info@psd401.net.

Food Backpacks 4 Kids keeps food flowing to children and families during school closure

All families who receive a food backpack can continue to receive food in our new Weekly “Drive by” Food Pick Up Program. We will have food available for Saturday drive by pick up each week at three locations:

- Henderson Bay High School Parking Lot
- Gateway Park Parking Lot
- Evergreen Elementary Parking Lot

Any family in the Peninsula School District with school aged children in need of food should send an e-mail to info@foodBackpacks4Kids.org – just let us know which of the three pickup locations is most convenient for you. Our first “drive by” food pick up will be tomorrow, Saturday, March 21 from noon until 1:00 pm. you must RSVP by email before picking up food.

Families without transportation should also email us – we want every student in the district to not have any issues with food insecurity

The Peninsula Internet Academy

The Peninsula Internet Academy (PIA) provides online alternatives to traditional education for 9th-12th graders. PIA currently serves approximately 350 students on a full or part time basis.

Online Coursework During the School Closure

Students currently enrolled in PIA classes will continue to work in their classes from home and will have the support of their teachers as well as PIA Coordinator, Anne Mullen. Students will make weekly contact with their instructors, and continue to make progress in classes. Students and families have been asked to reach out with any questions or technology needs.

Full Time Online Learners

Full-time online students will be able to take final exams from home and will be enrolled in additional classes when they are ready. Full time students will remain in weekly contact with their teachers, and with PIA’s Online Learning Specialist, John Rosi. He can be reached at rosij@psd401.net

Possible Additional Opportunities

As we face school closure and are “prohibited from providing in-person educational, recreational, and other K–12 school programs using their school buildings and facilities” (Governor Inslee’s Proclamation, March 12, 2020), the district is seeking ways to reach students with additional learning opportunities. The priority is given to providing a successful pathway to graduation for our senior students. We will have more information on possible options by the end of next week.

We hope everyone is staying healthy and has some time to enjoy the sunshine this weekend. Thank you!



#WEarePSD

Peninsula School District 401

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psd401.net