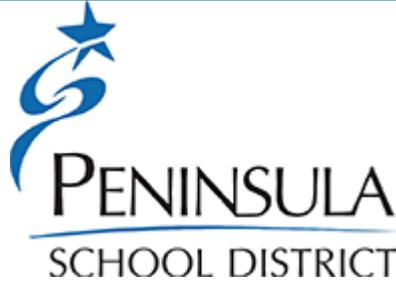


March 25, 2020



## COVID-19 and the State of the District

Dear PSD staff and families,

We sincerely hope you're all doing well as you isolate at home with your loved ones. Here's a summary of the latest district news to share with you.

### **School must go on**

On Monday, all school districts received new guidance and direction from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) relating to operating school during this pandemic. District leaders met yesterday via Zoom, and then with the Peninsula Education Association, to consider the new guidelines and work together on a plan to offer learning opportunities for all students. We'll keep you informed as these plans develop.

### **Essential services - childcare and meal service will continue**

As you know, the governor [issued a new order](#) requiring all residents to stay at home except for essential activities. The stay-at-home order went into effect immediately and will last for at least two weeks. The order does not affect our ability to continue providing childcare to first responders and healthcare workers, or providing free breakfast and lunch to all children 18 and under. These essential services will continue. 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.

### **Virtual field trips**

Have you heard about all the virtual tours and special events that are taking place right now online to support you and your children during the closures? We will highlight some of these special one-of-a-kind activities in the coming days on our Department of Learning & Innovation [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages. We will also continue to update our curated list of learning activities available to you as well on our [Home Learning Resources](#) page on the district website.

### **Chromebook repair**

To support at-home learning, we have distributed over 3,000 additional Chromebooks/iPads to students in grades K-5 over the last two weeks. Students in grades 6-12 already had Chromebooks as part of the district's one-to-one technology program called [PSD Possibilities](#). This means altogether we have issued over 7,000 technology devices to students in the Peninsula School District. During the closure, should your device need repair, please let us know. You can email [servicecentral@psd401.net](mailto:servicecentral@psd401.net), and we will be in touch with a plan to get the device from you and provide you a loaner while it is being repaired.

### **Playgrounds closed**

As a school district, we have a responsibility to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. We are committed to doing our part to flatten the curve and comply with the recommendations of public health authorities. Therefore, our school playgrounds are closed until further notice.

### **Spring break plans (April 13-17)**

We have plans in place to continue providing childcare for first responders and healthcare workers and free meals to all children 18 and under during spring break. School-based employees, including teachers, will not be working over spring break. All our buildings will remain closed to the public.

### **Getting to graduation in 2020**

Principals at Peninsula HS, Henderson Bay HS, and Gig Harbor HS sent a message to seniors and their parents yesterday with the latest updates made available from OSPI regarding graduation for the class of 2020. Our schools have begun working with district leaders to discuss how we can best support our seniors to make sure they have what they need to graduate.

This week, our high school principals are meeting with school counselors and case managers to review data for each senior, including credits, pathways, high school and beyond plans, and individual education plans. Aside from these formalities, we know the timing of this unprecedented situation has most likely been very stressful for

our seniors and their families. The school year has been abruptly interrupted and we are truly sad to know our seniors are missing out on so many special senior year activities.

The Washington State Board of Education is meeting later this week to discuss options for waiving certain graduation requirements. Stay tuned for more information about this year's graduating class.

### **Frequently asked questions**

Every day brings new developments related to the COVID-19 outbreak. We know the uncertainty can be unsettling. We are continuing to monitor this situation, and are staying in close contact with local and public health officials. We will continue to keep our [COVID-19 page](#) updated, as well as our list of frequently asked questions.

### **Thank you**

We know there are still many unanswered questions, and we are working on finding those answers. As we do, we will continue to provide updates by email, on our website and on social media. Thank you again for your patience and support. We will get through this together!



**#WEarePSD**

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