

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Good Afternoon! On Wednesday, April 1, we anticipate beginning our new Distance Learning schedule. The changes outlined below are a reflection of our experiences from the first days of Distance Learning as well as the feedback we have received from our teachers, administrators, parents and students. This is an entirely new journey for us, navigating through the unknown. We greatly appreciate your patience and partnership in learning, and we will continue to reflect on our practice and evolve over time. Likewise, we expect technical and implementation challenges along the way as we move to a new format, and thank you in advance for your patience.

Each day, students and teachers will follow a modified period-by-period schedule following the regular PMS and PMHS schedules. These 30-minute sessions will be synchronously led by the teachers, and may include direct instruction and/or flipped learning sessions using pre-recorded video. The school day begins at 9am, with morning announcements in between periods zero and one (9:35am). There are two breaks during the day for independent work and a traditional Academy period will be available at the end of the day.

All students are expected to attend classes per their normal schedule Monday-Thursday, and any additional sessions as requested by teachers at other times. If a student is unable to attend class due to illness, an email should be sent by their parent/guardian to Karen Mann at KMann@pelhamschools.org for PMHS or Nora Debartolo at ndebartolo@pelhamschools.org for Pelham Middle School.

All live sessions will be recorded and made available upon written request to the teacher to accommodate scheduling conflicts for students. In an effort to provide some normalcy and the important social-interactions that have been diminished during this time of social distancing, we have also blocked out time for extracurriculars to meet after school. The aforementioned schedule will be in place Monday-Thursday each week, and Fridays will be more flexible as to provide time for teachers to meet with students on an as-needed basis to provide support, extend learning opportunities, offer social-emotional connections, and attend to other professional responsibilities.

- [6-12 Distance Learning Schedule format](#)

Please know that this new schedule was crafted to meet the needs of our students and reflects feedback from parents, teachers, children, and administrators, as well as successful practices in regional school districts. We hope that this schedule will provide sufficient flexibility for families to create a daily structure that works for them yet provides more support to move learning forward for students.

As we continue to evolve our Distance Learning plan, we know that the issue of grading, particularly third quarter grades is on the minds of many parents and students. Please know that the District is considering a variety of options. Any rumors that a decision has been made are false. This is a complex issue that requires careful consideration and more information will be forthcoming later in the week.

These are challenging times for all of us, and we appreciate our teachers' efforts to provide continuity to learning for the children. Thank you again for your understanding and support.

I wish you and your family the best health.