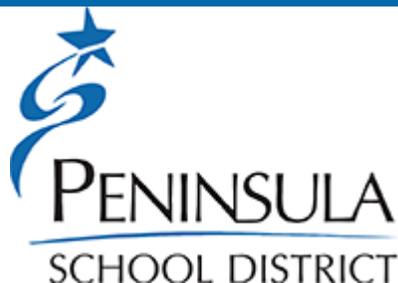


April 9, 2020



COVID-19 and the State of the District

Dear PSD staff and families,

We hope everyone is staying safe, spending quality time with family and participating in some good virtual engagements with teachers and staff.

PSD Continuous Learning Opportunities

Teachers and administrators have been working hard to redesign their instruction to a remote model of teaching and learning for the rest of the school year. Changing an entire system like this would normally take years to do; however, we have already heard many stories of how teachers are finding unique ways to engage with their students, and we are grateful for families' patience and flexibility during this uncertain time.

Beginning April 20, after our scheduled spring break, we will be moving to a new stage of our Continuous Learning Opportunities Program. In this stage teachers will provide enhanced remote instruction; each course or subject will offer essential new learnings and incorporate digital and non-digital materials into instructional activities. These lessons on new learning are meant to help students be prepared to progress to their next grade levels or next course in a sequence.

In addition to teaching new concepts, staff will continue connecting with every student to help guide their learning and support social-emotional well being. Our work is guided by new recommendations from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), discussions with the Peninsula Education Association and community feedback. We know equity must be at the forefront as we move forward, and collaboration is necessary to reach students we have not yet connected with, as well as students in our special populations, such as our homeless students, those with disabilities, and our English learners.

Our goal is to provide consistent, easy-to-find learning opportunities for all students, while understanding we will cover significantly less content than normal because of this unprecedented situation. Looking ahead, educators will begin or continue scheduled office hours, weekly learning plans will be provided, and teacher teams will

identify the concepts to be taught over the remainder of the school year through June 19. Feedback will be provided, and information about how work will be assessed will be shared soon.

To help support you at home, you can expect to receive a **Remote Learning Guide for Parents** by April 20. This document will outline what remote learning is, what it's not, how families can support their students' learning and communication methods.

Based on OSPI guidance, we recommend these developmentally appropriate times for student work per day. You may wish to adjust for your family, but our teachers will be working within these parameters.

- Pre-K: 30 minutes
- Grade K-1: 45 minutes
- Grade 2-3: 60 minutes
- Grade 4-5: 90 minutes
- Grade 6-8: 2.5 hours per day (20 minutes per class)
- Grade 9-12: 3 hours per day (30 minutes per class)
- Additional learning resources can be accessed via [the Home Learning Resources page on the PSD website](#).

We are also working to connect with students in our special populations, such as our homeless students, those with disabilities and our English Learners. Special services staff and teachers will work collaboratively to ensure students can successfully access continuous learning opportunities.

We acknowledge this is an unprecedented situation and that many families are dealing with new arrangements with childcare, financial uncertainty and other changes to their normal routines. This is a difficult time for our community, including educators and their families, and we thank you all for your patience as we all come together.

This will be a fluid process. While much remains uncertain right now, one thing is sure - this crisis will pass, and we will move forward together. We can do this!

External WiFi hotspots added to more school campuses

External WiFi hotspots are being added to more school campuses today! Free internet connections are now available at:

- Artondale Elementary School;

- Evergreen Elementary School;
- Minter Creek Elementary School;
- Vaughn Elementary School;
- Voyager Elementary School;
- Goodman Middle School;
- Harbor Ridge Middle School;
- Key Peninsula Middle School;
- Gig Harbor High School; and
- Peninsula High School.

You can simply walk or drive up and access the internet from the outside of the school.

Spring Break - meal service and childcare will continue

Next week, April 13-17, is our scheduled spring break, which means school-based employees, including teachers, will not be working. Meal hubs and deliveries will continue, as well as childcare for children of first responders and health care workers.

April 6-10 is Volunteer Appreciation Week

As we close out the week, we'd like to say a big "Thank You" to all of those who offer their time, skills and talents to enrich our learning community. We could not do all that we do for our students without your support and dedication. Thank you! Here's a [profile](#) of one of our amazing volunteers.

We are truly grateful for our students, staff and families. We hope everyone can take time next week to relax, rejuvenate and enjoy being safe and healthy.



#WEarePSD

Peninsula School District 401
14015 - 62nd Avenue NW; Gig Harbor, WA 98332
(253) 530-1000
psd401.net

