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(en Español)

Pirates:

As we end the fourth week of e-learning, we recognize what a difficult week this has been for our school community. As always, we are here at PHS to support our students through these emotional times. Parents and students, please contact Palatine High School to request any sort of support for your student.

Last Friday, Governor JB Pritzker announced that all schools in Illinois will remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. Just yesterday, we learned the Stay-at-Home order in Illinois will continue through May 30. The Illinois High School Association made the difficult decision to cancel all IHSA spring state tournaments. The IHSA Board also determined that all summer contact days are suspended for this year, unless state government and medical leaders indicate such gatherings are safe. While we know that these were difficult decisions for state government and agencies to make, we acknowledge and understand that we all share in a collective sacrifice made for the greater good.

We often talk about Pirate Pride as a moniker for describing how we celebrate and come together as a school community of students, faculty, parents, and staff. Even though we are apart, I cannot remember a time when I have experienced more Pirate Pride than now. We are in this together. Your expressions of support and care are truly remarkable, and you should be proud.

Here is a brief recap of the District's communications this week with some additional information to support students and parents in the coming weeks.

Institute Days

While we can all imagine being enrolled in one or two e-learning classes, most of our students are experiencing e-learning in five or six classes. We have heard from students that this additional time will support them to complete e-learning assignments and projects. This time will also be designated time for our faculty to participate in critical discussions about modifications for the end of this school year.

- Students do not need to register school attendance on Institute Days
- Teachers will not assign work on Institute Days

- Students may submit assignments on Institute Days
- Institute Days are counted as a day of work for students in the 5-day assignment completion window

Designated Professional Development Days to Support Remote Learning:

- Monday, April 27
- Monday, May 4
- Monday, May 11
- Monday May 18
- Friday, May 22

Our seniors' last day of attendance will be Wednesday, May 13.

The last day of remote learning for freshmen, sophomores and juniors will be Thursday, May 21.

AP Exams

As in years past, we will provide tutoring and support hours from a number of faculty members to help students prepare for an AP test. Remote AP review sessions will be posted at the beginning of May. While many of the AP study sessions will occur after the seniors' last day of class, seniors are invited and encouraged to attend these sessions.

Graduation and Senior Events

Our senior students and parents have been extraordinary during this most challenging time for our senior class. During these difficult times, it is important to remember that our sacrifice is for a greater good. It is okay to feel this legitimate loss, but also know that the Class of 2020 will forever be remembered for their perseverance and grace as we experience this major historical event in the making.

We remain very hopeful that we will be able to celebrate a traditional graduation in June or July. Recognizing that public health guidelines may not allow us to gather in June or July, Palatine High School will celebrate a virtual graduation on Sunday, May 17, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Yesterday, seniors received an email about how to provide for the accurate pronunciation of their name at graduation. Please be sure to review this message and submit the recording by Tuesday, April 28.

Unfortunately, we are unable to hold prom events this year given that it would not be possible to employ any level of social distancing guidelines that we anticipate will

be in place for months to come at a prom event. I understand that this was particularly sad news, especially for our seniors. It was a decision we held off as long as possible in hopes that the outlook would change.

There are a number of other activities being planned to celebrate the Class of 2020! Some are in alignment with traditional end of senior year events, and other events are planned especially for this year's seniors. I look forward to sharing more information with you very soon! I appreciate your patience as we navigate this remarkable endeavor.

Summer School

On Wednesday, Dr. Cates shared that we will be unable to offer in-person instruction in any of our summer school courses this year, and we will continue our remote learning within a smaller number of course offerings. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer our popular athletic and activities camps. Next week, we will provide more details about our limited summer school offerings planned for this summer.

Tony Medina
Principal

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