



PINE GROVE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Promoting Growth, Achievement, Success, and Direction for ALL Children!



*Heath W. Renninger
Superintendent*

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Over a week has passed, and I know social distancing has become increasingly difficult for all of us, especially our children. We all have many questions, and at this time, I will address three educational issues.

(1) When are we going to go back to school? Under the new timeline, school would reopen at the earliest on April 7 for two days to allow school administrators, teachers, and other staff time to prepare classrooms, set up cafeterias, schedule transportation and arrange other business operations. Students would return to school on April 9, unless extending the closure is needed in response to the situation with the virus. There are no other definitive answers on calendars. Rest assured, when we know more information, we will share it. You may want to stay informed by watching <https://www.governor.pa.gov/live> and/or periodically visiting <https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/Pages/AnswersToFAQs.aspx>

(2) Are we going to take standardized tests? The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) announced the cancellation of statewide assessments for the 2019-2020 school year, which includes PSSA, PASA, and Keystone Exams.

(3) Are we going to have flexible education? While we are to follow physical social distancing guidelines, our staff is eager to connect with students and families. We know you are relying on us for normalcy and balance during this overwhelming time. We are asking for your flexibility and patience while we continue to develop and begin implementation of our "Continuity of Education" plan. The PDE has worked to address our collective concerns about continuing to educate students during this unprecedented time; their FAQs are listed in the link below, please refer to #'s 8, 9, 10, & 11.

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/Pages/AnswersToFAQs.aspx>

We have begun the journey to take on the challenge of Flexible Instruction. During this initial ten day school closure I have challenged our administration to research, develop, and begin implementation of our "Continuity of Education" plan. This includes a complete survey of all student households pertaining internet access and devices.

With the school closure being extended up until the end of the day on April 6, 2020, our administrators and teachers will continue to explore all types of learning options and communication methods. Teachers will begin to safely reach out to students through these flexible means during this period for enrichment, review, and just to touch base. This time period will be nothing more than communication and a slow methodical rollout of a flexible planned instruction map for students.

If the closure is ultimately extended beyond our spring break, our moving target is to be operating in a fully functioning flexible planned instruction environment moving forward. We will attempt to work through the obstacles in order to offer educational services to all of our students.



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Pine Grove Area School District is thankful for the first responders and health care workers who are taking on a large share of leadership and responsibility in this crisis, and we believe we can contribute to supporting our community with meals and education. Our entire school district team looks forward to tackle this adversity until our students return to our physical school building.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Heath W. Renninger", written over a dotted line.

Heath W. Renninger, Superintendent