



PINE GROVE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Promoting Growth, Achievement, Success, and Direction for ALL Children!



Heath W. Renninger
Superintendent

Dear Pine Grove Area Students, Families, Staff & Community:

We saw it coming, but today's announcement that schools are closed for the rest of the school year is devastating, nonetheless. Students belong in school. That's where they learn best. But we also need to keep them safe, we need our staff and their families to stay healthy, and so we support the difficult decision made by the Governor.

The teaching and learning will continue; it will just look a lot different during the next few weeks.

In anticipation of this announcement as the Coronavirus continued to spread and social distancing became the norm, the dedicated team of Pine Grove Area School District Administrators & Teachers began working on our Instructional Continuity Plan
<https://www.pgasd.com/cms/lib/PA50000222/Centricity/ModuleInstance/328/PGASD%20Instructional%20Continuity%20Plan.pdf>

which will be in affect from Tuesday, April 14, 2020 through June 3, 2020, which is the remainder of the board approved school year. There is so much to continue thinking about: curriculum issues, resources, training, technology, Internet access, special needs, language barriers, communication challenges, basic needs such as food and shelter, and the emotional and social strain on students, families, and staff.

Luckily, we don't have to contemplate these challenges in a vacuum. Every school district in the state and most districts across our nation are grappling with this new approach to education, and we have been working collaboratively with the PDE & IU29 to make certain that our plan is accessible and equitable for all.

Of course, our principals, teachers and support staff – those who know our students best – jumped in head first to begin coming up with ways to keep our kids learning. The innovative ideas, their thirst for learning, and overall support for students that I have witnessed over the past few weeks is inspiring.

We have more work to do and many more questions that need to be answered. We will do our best as guidance is released to answer these questions in the future. There are many details to iron out, but we can share some certain information with you now:

- There will be no statewide testing this spring.
- Our Instructional Continuity Plan officially kicks off on Tuesday, April 14, 2020.
- The third marking period officially ends on April 17, 2020.
- Students won't have to make up missed instructional days.
- Our learning focus will be on what is contained within our ICP.



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- Relationships and connections will play a big role in this new era of distance learning, as will an emphasis on social and emotional wellness.
- All students will be supported and educated.
- We are currently working on getting devices and internet access into the hands of our families in need.
- We will work hard and provide a good faith effort to follow Individual Education Programs (IEPs) for our most needy students.
- We will continue to provide numerous virtual classroom trainings for teachers and staff.
- We will continue to provide both online and print resources, if needed.
- We will continue to provide grab-n-go school meals twice weekly for as long as we can.
- Our hearts hurt for these students who will miss out on so many traditions, graduations, proms, field trips, etc., however we remain hopeful.
- We are going to be flexible and ready to adapt as educators, students, and families. None of us has ever done anything like this before, but we will all try our best because every one of us wants what's best for our students.

We will stay in touch as we know more. We understand you have lots of questions, unfortunately at this time we don't yet have answers. We will continue to keep our community in the know because we are all in this together. The best place for updates is the www.pgasd.com website, Facebook, and Twitter.

Keep learning, keep reading, keep supporting each other. We will get through this together.

All my best and Happy Easter,

Heath W. Renninger, Superintendent