



PINE GROVE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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



*Heath W. Renninger
Superintendent*

December 23, 2020

Dear Cardinals,

As we head into Winter Break, I want to commend the unwavering efforts of PGASD students and staff who have, in essence, reimagined public education over the last nine months. I also want to recognize and express gratitude for the hard working parents (and other family members and friends) of PGASD students who have selflessly put other parts of their lives on hold to support their child's learning during these difficult times. Just like it has in many other ways, COVID-19 has challenged us to work together for better outcomes. This holiday period is a much anticipated, brief pause for rest. We all must find creative ways to reconnect, recharge and just enjoy the special people in our lives.

Please take time to take care of yourself and others. Even in a normal school year, the pressures of the holiday season can cause feelings of isolation, without enough time to connect, socialize, and support others as we may intend. For some, this period may bring on added feelings of stress and anxiety related to family, finances, and commitments. I am so thankful that in our schools we are overflowing with people dedicated to creating a safe space for all students and families to belong. It is especially important this time of year that we look to each other for support, and make an extra effort to look out for one another.

Thank you to our community for your shared commitment to doing the best for our students. Our public health officials strongly advise us to continue with frequent handwashing, wearing masks, maintaining 6-foot physical distancing, and to avoid gatherings and travel. The best way to ensure the safety of the children and staff in our schools is to lower the community transmission of the spread. We need everyone's help to lower the community spread inside our district.

We all have the same goal in mind, to return students fully to campus when it is safe to do so. However, when we reopen our schools on January 4th, it will be like never before in PGASD...full K-12 learning with live teaching through a computer device for a two-week period. Who would have ever thought it would come to this? Universities did not prepare any of us for this, the textbooks we studied never once mentioned virtual learning, but yet again... our people have reimagined education. It will be far from perfect, but we will strive for it. We will be flexible and understanding, while learning from our misgivings because that's what we do in Pine Grove Area. We adapt, ...and we overcome. This is our chance to flatten the upward curve within our district. We must do everything possible to safeguard our school community and return our schools to in-person learning. We need your help.

I encourage everyone to do your best to adhere to all health and safety precautions throughout the holiday break. One can only hope that 2021 will be better for our community and our schools. I wish you and your loved ones a safe, restful, healthy, and happy holiday.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year,

Heath W. Renninger, Superintendent