



# PINE GROVE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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



*Heath W. Renninger  
Superintendent*

November 25, 2020

Dear Cardinals,

This is the time of year when we pause and reflect on all that we are thankful for, a time for families and friends to gather to share food, swap stories, and catch up on all that has happened over the past year. We all know that the Thanksgiving holiday will be different this year. We have been encouraged by the Center for Disease Control and Pennsylvania Department of Health to limit our exposure to only those in our household and keeping our guests to a small number. For holiday purists, these suggestions for celebrating this year fall well outside of the images of past holidays that we all hold in my mind.

The change in what we will experience in celebrating this year, however, has not changed the fact as to the many things our school community has to be thankful for.

PGASD is thankful for our teachers and professionals who work tirelessly to revamp their curriculum, learn remote virtual learning strategies, implement cleaning strategies within their classrooms, and for every single effort that they have done to support our students through this pandemic.

PGASD is thankful for our support staff, cafeteria staff, custodians/cleaners, bus drivers, grounds/maintenance crew, and secretaries for all that they have done to help our students remain safe, healthy and supported, in classrooms, on the bus and playgrounds, and in our cafeterias.

PGASD is thankful for our administrators who have shown great leadership as they have worked to develop new routines and procedures. They have served as the ear for the many concerns and roadblocks that we have overcome over the past year.

PGASD is thankful for our school nurses who have developed and implemented safety protocols, answered questions from families and staff and have worked tirelessly to track and record COVID-related issues in our district.

PGASD is thankful for our school board members who dedicate their time to determine our mission and purpose while establishing policies to accomplish these goals.

PGASD is thankful to our school community that believes in our students and supports them through throughout the year. Your support and help are invaluable as we work to support each and every student.

Finally, our success in keeping our COVID-19 rate low at PGASD through the start of the year has been primarily due to the efforts we have all made to follow our COVID safety procedures and our School District's reopening plan. Our ability to keep our school and community as safe as possible lies in our willingness to follow not only the PGASD safety procedures but the recommendations of the CDC and the Pennsylvania Department of Health. When students are not on campus, we ask that parents/guardians adhere to the same guidelines in order for us to have a safe return to campus after the holidays. We currently have (0) active cases of COVID-19 inside our school walls.



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If you intend to gather and/or travel, we highly encourage you to follow all health and safety protocols to keep you and your family safe as well as our greater Pine Grove Area community.

I don't share this to dissuade you from celebrating with loved ones; we should never lose focus on the holiday traditions that each of us cherishes. I share this to ensure that our students are safely able to reenter the Pine Grove Area School District buildings after the holiday break.

Thank you for all you do to support our school community and to create a safe environment for all.

Please know that the PGASD continues to ensure that the established protocols and regular cleaning of the buildings continue and are designed to provide an environment that is as safe and healthy as we can. However, our region is seeing some concerning COVID trends. As such, we all need to continue to make good choices to keep each other safe and healthy.

Please be safe and best wishes for a happy and healthy Thanksgiving to you and your families.

Respectfully,

Heath W. Renninger, Superintendent