



Peru Central School District

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Dr. Thomas Palmer
Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Randolph B Sapp
School Business Administrator

July 29, 2020

Dear Students, Parents/Guardians and School Community Members,

I wanted to give you an update on where the District is in regards to its reopening plan. By Friday of this week, July 31, 2020, each school district in New York must submit a reopening plan to the New York State Education Department, New York State Department of Health and post it on our website for community review.

The plan requires that we prepare for three scenarios. The first scenario is for an in-person program for elementary children in grades PreK-5 similar to what was in place prior to the pandemic closure of March 16, 2020 and a hybrid model for the middle and high school students. The second scenario is for a hybrid model that is a combination of in-person education and remote learning for all students in PreK-12. The third scenario is for remote learning for all students. Please know that our plans will include all CDC and New York State Department of Health guidelines and will follow those guidelines for the safety of our students and staff.

As we are preparing for our reopening plan submission, we are incorporating the feedback that we have received from our teacher and parent surveys as well as the feedback that is taking place with our teacher, department and administrative leadership groups. Our committees are made up of school district staff at all levels, department heads in Building and Grounds, Transportation, Child Nutrition and administrators who have been spending time this summer meeting, reviewing, discussing and planning for how reopening scenarios would look district-wide and building-wide. We would like parents to continue to fill out the surveys we are posting that are critical in the work we are doing. Also, interested parents can email me directly at tpalmer@perucsd.org. This feedback has been extremely useful and I thank everyone who has been participating in the surveys and those who continue to do so.

While our planning is in progress, we also realize that the Governor of New York will be making a decision on the reopening status of schools in August. The Governor's decision may change the status of our plans, depending on the effect the pandemic has on New York leading up to the beginning of the school year. Our adjusted reopening plans, which will be released in mid-August, will reflect the Governor's initial August decision.

In the days and weeks to come we will be sending out another survey to our school community and then we will be reaching out to each individual student household to see what plans parents/guardians are considering relative to the topics of in-person instruction and remote instruction. The responses that we get from these individual contacts will impact our planning and decision-making as we prepare to reopen.

We are all in a very difficult position when it comes to planning for a fall reopening, given our current circumstances. I realize that the best plans we come up with may not work for everyone. But I also realize that we have an opportunity to create new ways to teach and learn, to welcome innovations and possibilities not previously considered and to change the traditional methods of teaching and learning to something new, invigorating and exciting for students in their growth and development.

I can tell you that we will work with you to address the needs and concerns you have to the best of our ability with all of the resources we have. We will continue to strive to make the best inclusive decisions for our school community with your input and support. I can also tell you that during my time at Peru, our school community has always been one that pulls together to support our students in the most difficult of situations. While I believe that there has been nothing in public school history that matches the circumstances we are all living with, I am also very confident that our school community will continue to find ways for us to work together to support our students, families and those in need.

Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do in support of our students and greater community. I will share new information with you as soon as it is available.

Sincerely,

Thomas Palmer Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools