



Peru Central School District

District Office
P.O. Box 68
17 School Street
Peru, New York 12972
(518) 643-6000 Phone
(518) 643-2043 Fax

Dr. Thomas Palmer
Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Randolph B Sapp
School Business Administrator

11/13/20

Dear School Community,

As we move into the later fall and early winter, there are several important topics being discussed in the Peru Central School District. It is important that we keep the community informed in the following areas: the district's reopening plans, winter sports, snow days, two-hour delays and student attendance.

Reopening Plans

The question has been asked repeatedly "What is the district doing about the reopening of our schools?" We have been meeting with our local health departments, teacher leadership and administrative leadership teams to **begin to develop** a reentry plan for our district to be able to come back to school 100%. We have **only just begun the conversations** with all of the groups and will continue to have those conversations. I am also keeping the Board of Education aware of those conversations and they will be active in the decision-making process when and if it becomes a reality.

Things have to happen to allow us to be able to move forward in that direction. **Our positive COVID rates have to stay low.** We have to gain a better understanding of what our staff and families feel about coming back in full and whether that is permissible with the health department.

At the start of the school year, the district removed excess furniture from the classrooms. Removal of the furniture established the required 6-foot social distancing and reduced the amount of furniture that needed to be cleaned and disinfected on a daily basis. In order to bring back all students, we would have to populate all classrooms with the excess furniture. This would take a significant amount of time and would also result in student spacing less than the recommended 6 feet.

To assist in the planning process, I would ask everyone to please take our survey on reopening so we have a better understanding of where families are at this time. The survey is designed to be short and to the point. Families have different levels of concern regarding COVID-19 and I want to understand the position of our school community at this point and time. This information will be helpful in determining the appropriate time to move forward with an in-person reopening plan. **NO** Action is being considered at this time and before any action would be taken, there would be Superintendent Town Hall Meetings to discuss this in greater length with our entire school community.

Winter Sports:

The sports that would be included in the winter sport season are: basketball, wrestling, indoor track, competitive cheer, bowling, hockey and boys swimming. We have learned of a statement that came out from Dr. Robert Zayas, NYSPHSAA Executive Director on Tuesday, November 10, 2020:

After consultation with state officials today, NYSPHSAA has confirmed low and moderate risk winter sports (bowling, gymnastics, indoor track & field, skiing and swimming& diving) **ARE** permitted to be played. NYSPHSAA has established November 30th as the winter sports start date. At this time, authorization has not been provided for high risk sports to begin play. The high-risk sports start date continues to be examined and will be revised if needed but is contingent upon authorization from state officials”

At this time, Peru will have boys’ and girls’ bowling offered to our students. Indoor track & field is TBD based on the ability to have a venue to host the events.

Snow days and two hour delays:

This unique year has allowed us to reevaluate operations. As a result, I don’t foresee us using snow days and two hour days. We have the ability to teach remotely and at the present time, we can continue this process and preserve the inclement weather days for those days that have power outages and other major issues that would inhibit our students from being provided instruction. When and if an inclement weather day is called and the physical building will be closed, the announcement on Parent Square will be “Good Morning, the Peru Central School District will be running on a remote learning day. It is a (selected day AA, BB or full remote day based on the day of the week) School for the Middle and High School will begin at 7:28 am. Our Elementary day will begin as you would during normal remote days. Thank you and have a nice day. Lunches would not be provided on these days and those meals will be made up on the next return day for our students.

Student Attendance:

Student attendance is something we are continually monitoring as it is critical to the academic development of our students. If students are not engaged in the lessons provided by the teacher, the likelihood of the student learning the material decreases substantially. We need our parents and caregivers help make sure that our students are watching and participating in the lessons being provided by our teachers. Completion of classwork and assignments is imperative. Collectively, our students will achieve more with support from the district and home. If you are concerned about your child’s learning during this challenging period, please don’t hesitate to reach out to your child’s building administrator.

Thank you,

Thomas Palmer Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools