

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

April 14, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Community Members,

The Governor has issued an extension for schools to be closed until April 29, 2020. I understand this is a very difficult time for our school community, the uncertainties of not knowing what is next. As we navigate this unprecedented event, we will continue to communicate with you and continue to educate your child(ren) through this difficult time.

The Governor's 10-point NYS on PAUSE plan is as follows:

1. Effective at 8PM on Sunday, March 22, all non-essential businesses statewide will be closed;
2. Non-essential gatherings of individuals of any size for any reason (e.g. parties, celebrations or other social events) are canceled or postponed at this time;
3. Any concentration of individuals outside their home must be limited to workers providing essential services and social distancing should be practiced;
4. When in public individuals must practice social distancing of at least six feet from others;
5. Businesses and entities that provide other essential services must implement rules that help facilitate social distancing of at least six feet;
6. Individuals should limit outdoor recreational activities to non-contact and avoid activities where they come in close contact with other people;
7. Individuals should limit use of public transportation to when absolutely necessary and should limit potential exposure by spacing out at least six feet from other riders;
8. Sick individuals should not leave their home unless to receive medical care and only after a telehealth visit to determine if leaving the home is in the best interest of their health;
9. Young people should also practice social distancing and avoid contact with vulnerable populations; and
10. Use precautionary sanitizer practices such as using isopropyl alcohol wipe.

NYS Pause is still in effect until Wednesday, April 29, 2020. We ask for everyone to stay off the District's Campus unless you need to use the internet service to do school work. I understand the difficulty as the weather is getting better and children need to play and be active. We need your help in staying off campus, social distancing more than six (6) feet from someone else is a must and avoid contact with others.

We need to work together to get through this. We are continuing to develop more lines of communication and internet access points for our students so they can communicate with their teachers.

Grading

During our school closure, our emphasis has been on student engagement and maintenance of student learning for the first two weeks of acclimating our students to on-line learning in grades 6-12. Elementary School Students K-5 were engaged in completing well-designed packets from their teachers.

We understand this was a major cultural shift from what traditional learning looked like and felt within the bricks and mortar of a traditional school setting. It has been a major adjustment for both teachers and students.

At the high school and middle school level, grades reported as of April 3rd will be used for quarter 3 grades. The fourth quarter will be starting on April 20th.

Primary: PreK-2

Students in the primary will be evaluated from the material shared in the packets, which have been distributed. The students will upload work weekly using See-Saw or parents phones. Evaluation of materials begins April 20, 2020 - Extended Closure. Parents without devices or access to the internet will mail materials back to teachers weekly.

PreK: Play-based learning experiences and Interactive Units of Study using technology and parent contact. Teachers share videos using the PreK You-Tube Channel. Materials for interactive experiences are mailed to families (ie: seeds).

Grades K and 1: Packets are distributed to all students.

Grades 2: Packets to families without devices, internet access, or by request.

K-2 students will be provided ongoing feedback to the student's weekly submitted work by the teacher through the extended closure. Student materials will be shared with the classroom teacher by parents or caregivers using Seesaw, mobile uploads, or mailing of completed packets to teachers weekly.

Teaching materials in all grade levels will be shared weekly and given a full week to complete activities and assignments. This allows for parents or caregivers to plan for home school time.

Grading for 3rd Trimester:

School Tool Report Card Code:

A narrative of the 3rd trimester lessons will be inserted with the report card for each student outlining the lessons provided during the extended closure. Individual student performance/participation comments will be provided in the School Tool report card.

Intermediate: Grades 3-5

Students in the intermediate school will have instructional materials delivered to them by our bussing system next week. Instructional materials at this level will be a combination of paper packets and online instruction. Students will be provided feedback regularly by their classroom teacher, and student work will be shared with teachers using mobile uploads, email, video chats like google meet, apps such as Remind and ClassDojo, and google classroom. Evaluation of instructional materials will begin on April 20th and will extend through the school closure.

Grading for the Intermediate School for the third trimester will consist of student participation and the completion and assessment of assigned tasks. We will use a grading system that addresses whether a student meets or exceeds expectations. The school tool report card will be modified to reflect this performance in the individual comments section.

Our goal is to keep students actively engaged in the learning process through the end of the school year. It may look different in each building but the ultimate goal through this process is student engagement through family and school support.

Attendance

The model of remote education is not optional. It is mandatory and the District has been directed by Governor Cuomo and the New York State Education Department. Student attendance during this time and the completion of the work assigned during this remote instructional period is critical in ensuring that our students continue to develop the skills necessary for the success in future educational endeavors. We want our students to develop and master the competencies needed to be successful as to when the crisis subsides and we move forward. Not attending or completing the assigned work will have negative consequences on their education in the future.

April Recess

It has been a directive from the Governor's Office that remote instruction will continue during April recess. The Teachers and administrators have worked incredibly hard to make our remote instruction successful and continual plan as we don't have an ending date in sight except for a review in two weeks (April 29) from our governor. I really wanted for all parties to enjoy a much-deserved break, but as everything is shut down, it makes it more difficult to have a vacation. We will comply with the mandate that remote instruction continue through the scheduled break, but the content will focus on Social Emotional Learning. It may be perfect timing in this quandary to be able to relieve some of the stress that students, parents, and teachers have all experienced in conveying regular content via remote media, our district will shift focus to providing universal instruction in social/emotional/life skills during the week of April 13-17. For Teachers will not be providing individual class lessons, and instead, age-appropriate lessons in social/emotional/life skills will be offered. Staff will also be reaching out to our students checking on them.

Technology

We have been working to develop a plan to provide our students and teachers with increased access to the internet within the District borders. Our first goal is to allow access to District wifi from all parking lots across our campus. Parking lots are open, so please maintain appropriate social distancing protocols. Student devices will automatically pick up our wireless internet from inside the vehicle while parked on campus.

Our second goal was to provide students with "hotspot" locations in some of our remote locations and areas that have a higher concentration of families without dependable internet access. We have identified three areas of need based on collected data and established a consistent schedule for access. The locations, schedule, and connection expectations are provided at the end of this letter. In addition, this information will be shared via Facebook and posted on our District Website.

We will start providing this service on April 15th, 2020.

We have had the great fortune of coordinating and partnering with Beekmantown Central School District on the use of three wifi equipped buses. Thank you to Mr. Dan Mannix, Superintendent of Beekmantown and their Board of Education for helping us achieve this goal for our students and their families.

As a District, we rely heavily on technology to communicate with our school community and provide remote learning opportunities for our students. The effective use of technology requires constant tweaking and modifying to maximize its use and have the largest impact on student learning.

Meals

The food service workers, teacher aides, monitors, bus drivers, our directors and administration have been working extremely hard in making sure meals are being delivered to our students. April 13-April 17, we will be delivering meals on Tuesday, April 14 and Thursday April 16. We will resume daily delivery starting April 20th.

Regents Exams

On Tuesday, April 7, 2020, the Board of Regents and Department have cancelled the June 2020 administration of the NYS High School Regents Examination Program.

Because of this, the Department has modified the requirements that students must meet in order to earn high school diplomas, credentials, and endorsements. These modifications apply to all students enrolled in grades 7-12 during the 2019-20 school year who were intending to participate in one or more of the June 2020 Regents Examinations.

Students who, during the June 2020 examination period would have taken one or more Regents examinations, will be exempted from passing the assessments in order to be issued a diploma.

We are working through this and need your assistance in making sure that our students are still engaged in their classes. This proclamation takes the stress off of students during this time, but doesn't excuse our students from learning and continuing in their studies. This excuses them from taking the exam but doesn't stop them from increasing their knowledge.

Leadership

**“No one can whistle a symphony.
It takes a whole orchestra to play it”
-H.E. Luccock**

We will continue to work together to get through this time.

Take Care,

Tom Palmer
Superintendent of Schools



The Peru Central School District has partnered with the Beekmantown Central School District to provide Peru students with internet options throughout the community. Three “wifi” enabled buses will be available for use starting on Wednesday April 15th, 2020 at the locations listed below. All locations will be available for connection from 2:00pm-8:00pm, Monday through Friday.

Location	Address	Time
Rock’s Grocery Store	959 NY-22B, Schuyler Falls, NY 12985	2:00-8:00pm Mon-Fri
Ukie’s Deli	132 Irish Settlement Rd. Plattsburgh NY 12901	2:00-8:00pm Mon-Fri
Private Residence/Property	1731 Guideboard Rd. Schuylerfalls NY 12985	2:00-8:00pm Mon-Fri

How to Connect:

1. Park your vehicle near the bus.
2. Open the wifi options from the lower right corner of your screen.
3. Under available networks, select **Peru-Bus**.
4. When prompted for the password, enter **perubuswifi**.

You will be required to sign in the first time, but the chromebook will automatically connect each time after.

Use Expectations:

- **All guests must remain in vehicles and follow appropriate social distancing guidelines AT ALL TIMES**
- All vehicles must be within 300 feet of the bus to receive the strongest connection
- Only PeruCSD issued devices will be **“allowed”** to connect
- Students will have the opportunity to:
 - check email
 - open new assignments
 - turn-in assignments
 - completed any other tasks that are required by the District
- **Streaming video and private use WILL NOT be an option at these sites.**