March 9, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

On Thursday, March 5th, the New Jersey Department of Education released guidance to school districts regarding Requirements Related to Public Health School Closure. In the event our district is ordered to close by either the New Jersey Department of Health or the local health officer, the district would be able to utilize home instruction to provide instructional services to enrolled students.

Our district is in the process of developing a plan in the event we are ordered to close. To assist our staff with these preparations, the district will be operating a 1pm early dismissal schedule on Thursday, March 12. In a case where the district was ordered to close, instruction would be provided through a combination of print/packet materials and online learning. The specific format would be based primarily on your child’s grade or program. Regardless of grade or program, part of our plan depends on access to a computer and the internet. Every student in grades 6-12 has a district-owned computer device they can take home. We also have a significant number of devices we can make available to children in grades K-5. We have a brief survey we ask you to complete regarding your child’s access: https://forms.gle/1fUwcyHvKoBAWZ8KA

If school were to close, our teaching and administrative staff will be working and available. Therefore, you will have access to your child’s teacher(s) and, conversely, our teachers will have a regular presence online. This presence will allow both you and your child(ren) to respond to questions or concerns you have.

There are still a number of unanswered items on which we are working. Regarding those students who receive supplemental services (i.e., speech, occupational therapy, physical therapy), we are working to identify those needs and develop a plan to deliver these services or make up missed sessions upon reopening. For those students who receive free or reduced lunch, we will be sharing instructions with these parents on how to receive meals during a closing. In regards to extracurricular activities and high school sports, we will follow the guidance from our health officials, and, additionally, in the case of high school athletics, the governing body that oversees New Jersey high school athletics.

At this time there is no indication that our schools will be ordered to close. In the absence of these orders, we plan to keep our schools open and encourage you to continue to reinforce
appropriate hygiene and hand washing measures with your students. I am hopeful the need to close will not be necessary.

We will continue to use our SchoolMessenger system to share information with you as well as post all correspondence to our parents on the home page of our district’s web page (www.plps-k12.org).

We appreciate your understanding and support during this time.
Sincerely,

Paul Amoroso
Superintendent of Schools

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