



PRESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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To the Preston Public Schools Learning Community

COVID-19 (coronavirus)

**This is a dynamic and fluid circumstance, so please keep abreast of current information.
Be calm. Stay informed. Plan ahead.**

**The Following is an Updated version of a March 2 letter home and subsequent postings.
*Please read carefully.***

Up to the minute News:

NOTE Cancellations or Postponements below.

- The World Health Organization has declared the spread of the COVID- 19 virus a pandemic. Briefly, a pandemic declaration does not necessarily change circumstances locally. A pandemic declaration is much more about geography and coverage than it is about the severity of any specific disease. The pandemic declaration validates the worldwide spread of COVID-19.
- All of our neighboring states, including Massachusetts by this morning, March 11, 2020, have declared states of emergency. In Connecticut, on March 10, 2020, the Governor declared a state of Public Health Emergency and Civil Preparedness.
- The district has initiated cleaning procedures for buildings and buses beyond the normal routine, and they are accomplished daily.
- All CDC recommended prevention procedure remain in place:
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
 - Stay at home if you are sick
 - Cover your cough and sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
 - ABOVE ALL, wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Yesterday the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC), decided to cancel all remaining winter championships. The spring sports season is about to begin, and additional information will be forthcoming regarding those activities.
- The current district attendance policy still applies. As circumstances change, the Board of Education may review the policy as needed.
- As a district we have reviewed various guidance and criteria distributed by multiple agencies and the Connecticut Department of Education and we are, in an abundance of caution, making the following announcements
 - At PVMS, we are canceling our senior luncheons through April 20, 2020. After this period, we will reassess.
 - At the District level, PVMS and PPMS, we are canceling Unified Basketball. We will reassess after March 23, 2020.
 - All other activities and programs will remain in place at this time, with a process of continuous reassessment enacted. WATCH communication carefully as there may be school-specific cancellations or postponements instituted in the coming days.
 - If school closings become necessary, we will implement our entire communication system to relay the message. (Web Page, Facebook, Email, and Blackboard connect).
 - At this time, we will not be implementing a distance learning strategy as we have specific concerns about access to the internet, equity of instruction, and other matters that prohibit an immediate response. Therefore, if a school closes, we will look to using our four days that are already built into the 184-day instructional year (180 days is all that is required) and planning to extend the school year.
 - At this time, if a closure happens in the near future, we have no plans to effect or cancel Spring Break (April 10 -19).

As always, if you have any specific questions, do not hesitate to contact the central office or your school administration.

Thank you to all town emergency personnel, resident State Troopers, district staff, administration, parents, and guardians for your calm and support. We will continue to be diligent about our community's safety and adjust plans as necessary.

Sincerely,



Roy M. Seitsinger, Jr., Ph.D.