

# PAWLING CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Kim Fontana  
Superintendent of Schools



Neysa T. Sensenig, Ed. D.  
Assistant Superintendent for Finance

Debra Kirkhus, Ed.D.  
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Small Size ~ Diverse Opportunities

April 2, 2020

Dear Pawling Families,

I hope this letter finds you well. We are grateful for your steadfast support and commitment as we together provide for the ongoing education of the children we share. Our teachers began daily outreach to your children on March 18 and will continue to identify learning opportunities in each course throughout our school closure. We know having your children out of school has posed challenges for you, as well as for us, and we want to thank you for your partnership and for the kind and generous feedback we have received on our efforts. In assessing these efforts so far, we realize that for some students our daily outreach has been overwhelming, so we are going to streamline our communication going forward to limit the volume particularly our secondary students may be experiencing. You will see this reflected in our fourth quarter learning plan which will be posted to our website shortly.

Next week, which was our scheduled spring break has been cancelled by the Governor's orders. Please understand that this is not a district or Board of Education decision. It reflects the importance the Governor places on education as well as other essential services, such as school meals. Given the important religious holidays celebrated during this week, our direction to the teachers will be to be mindful of the amount and type of work that is identified for students, particularly beginning Wednesday evening as Passover begins, continuing on through Good Friday and over the weekend. This direction is in keeping with our practice whenever our instructional calendar and important religious holidays overlap. Monday, is still a scheduled Superintendent's Conference Day for teachers, so families will have both robust options for learning and the opportunity for rest, renewal and observance beginning on Wednesday evening through Monday. We see these steps as both consistent with the Governor's orders and respectful to our entire community.

Tuesday, April 14 is the beginning of our fourth quarter and we are committed to continuing to provide the best educational experience we can. I am grateful to the Board of Education and the community for its support of the technology we enjoy and the professional development we have been able to provide. I invite you to reach out to your child's teacher, counselor, principal, or myself, if there are supports you need that we are not currently providing. I encourage students to continue to do their best, be patient with themselves as they learn new ways of learning, and appreciate the support of their families.

Also based on the Governor's orders, we can expect May 22 and May 26 to be instructional days. Naturally, I hope we will be learning *in* school by then. At present, we know only that schools are closed through April 14. I will advise you about any additional closure as soon as the information is made available to me. Please know that school meals will continue to be provided throughout the period of closure.

This challenging time in our history serves to remind each of us within PCSD of how grateful we are for this special community of which we are a part.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Fontana".

Kim Fontana  
Cc: All staff