

PAWLING CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



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Small Size~Diverse Opportunities

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Dear Pawling Families, Students, and Staff,

I am writing to update you on some additional supports for families, seek student and family feedback on our ongoing instruction, and to invite you to contribute your ideas as we continue to develop ways to virtually connect and celebrate our students in the context of the ongoing coronavirus emergency.

Supporting our Community:

Childcare—We are now able to extend our facilitation of childcare services beyond first responders and healthcare workers, to essential workers generally. If you are a first responder, healthcare worker, or other essential worker in need of childcare, please complete this [survey](#) and we will work with our partners to help you locate a suitable placement. In addition, please be aware of childcare subsidies for families with limited income. You may complete this [form](#) to seek a scholarship or contact the [Childcare Council of Dutchess and Putnam](#) for more information.

School Meals—Currently, we are serving school meals for nearly 200 students. We deliver meals at seven locations on Mondays and Wednesday, providing a breakfast and lunch for each weekday. If your family cannot get to one of the seven locations, we can deliver meals to your home. Please complete this form to order meals in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) or call 845-855-4605 and leave a detailed message.

Devices and Internet Access—Because of the investment our community has made in our technology infrastructure, we have been able to provide an internet capable device for every student who needs one. In addition, we have succeeded in providing internet access for almost all students. Still, there may be some areas in which hot spot reception is poor and some students may be experiencing challenges with bandwidth and speed. Internet providers have stepped up to help. Please see opportunities for [free or low-cost internet](#) during the COVID-19 emergency.

Continuity of Learning:

Our instructional staff have been providing instruction and outreach each day since March 18. Our fourth quarter learning plan ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)) was developed by our instructional staff to continue to support student learning in the new context in which we find ourselves. I am proud of the work of our teachers and principals and grateful for the cooperation of our students and community. This work is challenging for staff, students, and families and our instructional staff is eager to assist you. It is always a good idea to start with your child's teacher or counselor. In addition, if you are finding it difficult to help your child with some aspect of online learning, you may pose your question to <mailto:techsupport@pcsdny.org>. We will be happy to assist you.

While we do not know when we will be back in school, we know it will look different, at least for the short-term. The re-entry plans we are developing prioritize the safety of our students and staff.

Student Celebrations:

It is the time of year when we celebrate our students' learning in multiple ways. Even if we are back in school this spring, we know that a packed auditorium or cafetorium is not going to be a safe way to hold our various honor, moving up, and graduation ceremonies. Thanks to the creativity of our staff and families, and generosity of our community, several exciting tributes to our high school seniors, as well as a K-12 virtual art show, are underway. In the meantime, your ideas for additional ways to honor our students' learning, k-12, are welcome at our [online forum](#) hosted by ThoughtExchange.

We, at Pawling Central Schools, sincerely miss the students. We are working diligently to sustain student learning and grow our capacity to meet the very real needs of our community. We are grateful for the relationships we have with the greater Pawling community and stand ready to assist in any way we can throughout this crisis. I am confident we will succeed, together.

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kim Fontana".

Kim Fontana

