

March 12, 2020

Parents/Guardians:

Concern about COVID-19 (coronavirus) has created a rapidly evolving environment where changes are being made quickly in the interest of public health. Powhatan County Schools has worked with our community partners to monitor the situation and develop plans to act accordingly. As a result of this collaboration, we have a major decision to announce:

**Starting Monday, March 16, Powhatan County Public Schools will be closed for students for two full weeks (through Friday, March 27).**

We will continue to assess the situation, and decide later if we need to extend this period of closure. You will be notified as soon as possible of all changes. At this time, there is no plan to adjust our previously scheduled Spring Break (April 6-10).

We realize this creates many questions about how students will continue their learning. We have a thorough plan in place, and detailed information will be communicated in a separate message. Our teachers and staff will use Monday, March 16 and Tuesday, March 17 to continue their preparations. Here are some guidelines to help you in your efforts.

- Directions for Instruction during this period will be communicated on Friday, March 13.
- **Paper packets of materials will be provided** for all elementary students in addition to information about online resources.
- Internet access will be made available at PCPS schools as hubs for those families who need it. Details will be shared once finalized.
- Parents/Guardians of students in grades 2-5 will have the opportunity to **check out Chromebooks** on March 13, 16, or 17 to support at-home learning.
- **Medication** currently stored in the school clinic may also be picked up by an adult on March 13, 16, or 17 if needed.

During this unprecedented experience, we will continue to do everything possible to ensure the health and safety of our community. The PCPS Facilities and Pupil Transportation departments will conduct additional cleaning of school buildings and buses, and continue to assess the best cleaning practices.

For some of our students, the meals provided at our schools are a crucial part of their daily nutrition. We will be communicating plans for PCPS to make meals available to students next week. As we become aware of community services to support this need, we will share the information.

Please know that this is not a decision that we make lightly. We realize that any change to educational schedules is disruptive and inconvenient. However, our priority must always be the health and safety of our students, staff members, and community.

Our community is coming together to collaborate, support, and care for each other. We will get through this together. Please stay close to your email/School Messenger for additional information as it becomes available. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,

Eric L. Jones, Ph.D.  
Superintendent