

March 27, 2020

Powhatan Families,

We were all shocked when the Governor closed schools on Tuesday for the remainder of the year. PCPS staff has worked tirelessly since the announcement to modify and update our continuity of learning plan for this extended closure. We appreciate your patience as we work through this unprecedented situation.

During this time, we have received new information and guidance from the Virginia Department of Education and the Virginia Department of Health. We have also communicated with school divisions in our region and across the state to glean best practices.

Also, thank you to the teachers, parents, students, and other stakeholders who have reached out with questions and comments via email, surveys, and calls to help us develop this plan to meet the needs of our community. We will continue to provide updates to a more comprehensive list of Frequently Asked Questions on the PCPS website.

CONTINUITY OF INSTRUCTION

During the initial school closure through April 3, we provided electronic and hard-copy learning resources that have reinforced what students have learned so far this year as part of our Distance Learning Plan. No materials will be distributed for Spring Break. We want families to enjoy that time to the extent that they can.

The Virginia Department of Education has encouraged school divisions to identify required learning objectives that had not been delivered at the initial time of closure and develop a plan to offer this missing content to all students. **We plan to begin implementation of our updated Distance Learning Plan after Spring Break (April 14).** We have identified the following goals for providing this instruction:

1. Identify specific critical skills and content that had not been taught as of 3/13 with a focus on skills and content required for future learning.
2. Develop learning activities or modules to address the missing skills and content necessary for awarding a standard credit and prepare for subsequent content (grade level, content area).
3. Develop an equitable plan for students to access content.
4. Encourage innovation with teachers and students to work on skill development.

Continuing with new instruction is in the best interest of our students and their academic careers, as we need to see that our students are adequately prepared for success in subsequent courses. We also know that there will be challenges during this time, so we have identified two ways to meet these goals:

1. Provide instruction during the extended closure.
 - a. We will work to provide equitable access and support for a variety of students.
 - b. After the extended closure, we will review how the closure impacted the delivery of services to students to identify any gaps in learning.
2. Utilize summer programming or fall 2020 for certain students who were not able to receive instruction or demonstrate adequate growth during the closure.

Starting on April 14th, instructional activities, created by teachers and staff, will be provided and assessed on a Pass/Fail basis. This will enable us to determine that a student has completed a majority of required standards, competencies, and objectives, including those that are essential for success in subsequent coursework. **Again, all student work will be assessed on a Pass/Fail basis by teachers.**

Families will receive the updated Distance Learning Plan that includes additional information about instruction, technology, as well as student supports and services next week.

TECHNOLOGY

In order to facilitate distance learning, PCPS will make chromebooks available to any K-5 student. If a student has not already received a chromebook, we will hold a distribution at all three elementary schools next week.

- Monday (3/30) 8-11am
- Tuesday (3/31) 12-3pm
- Friday (4/3) 3-6pm.

We will also hold help desk hours for students who are experiencing hardware issues with their chromebooks. Help Desk hours are 10am - 2pm at the following locations:

- PMS - Concession Stand (Monday and Wednesday)
- PHS – L100 (Tuesday and Thursday)
- Elementary Schools (Friday) - beginning after Spring Break

In addition to wifi availability outside of PCPS buildings, ***all Xfinity WiFi Public Hotspots are now open*** to everyone on the “***xfinitywifi***” SSID. Public hotspots can be found in small/medium businesses and outdoors in commercial areas. *Non-Xfinity subscribers need to accept Terms and Conditions to access the network* and repeat when requested to continue to receive free unlimited access. Additional information is available through the [Xfinity wifi site linked here](#).

MEDICATION PICK-UP

Student medications/supplies may be picked up by an adult at a pre-arranged pick-up appointment. These appointments can be made next week at the times listed above. Please email your child’s school nurse to schedule a pick-up appointment.

- Pocahontas Elementary: Arla Thompson, RN
arla.thompson@powhatan.k12.va.us
- Powhatan Elementary: Ashley Sloan, RN
ashley.sloan@powhatan.k12.va.us
- Flatrock Elementary: Jen Lawson, RN
jennifer.lawson@powhatan.k12.va.us
- Powhatan Middle: Harriette Jamerson, RN
harriette.jamerson@powhatan.k12.va.us
- Powhatan High: Cathy Vaden, RN
cathy.vaden@powhatan.k12.va.us

Any medication not picked up before Spring Break will be discarded.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION FOR STUDENTS

Any student under the age of 18 will be able to pick up meals while schools are closed. These meals are provided free of charge. Students must be present in order to pick up meals. Food will be distributed on the following dates:

- Monday, March 30, 2020 – 5 days of breakfast and lunch meals.
- Mondays, April 6, 2020 to May 18, 2020 – 7 days of breakfast and lunch meals.

- Tuesday, May 26, 2020 – 6 days of breakfast and lunch meals.
- Monday, June 1, 2020 – 7 days of breakfast and lunch meals.
- Monday, June 8, 2020 - 5 days of breakfast and lunch meals.

Food will be distributed at the following school locations:

- Powhatan High School - 8:00am to 10:00am. Bus loop at the rear of the school.
- Powhatan Elementary School – 8:00am to 10:00am. Bus loop on the western side of the school.
- Powhatan Middle School - 4:30pm to 7:00pm. Door 11 located on the western side of the school.

Please follow the lead-in signs at each location and drive up to the distribution station and open your trunk. **Children must be with you.** State the number of children you have in your car. Food Service staff members will look to verify the number of children and then place the appropriate number of bags in your trunk. If you are in a pickup truck or other vehicle without a trunk the food may be placed inside the vehicle.

If you are unable to pick up meals during the scheduled times, please contact Sodexo by email foodservice@powhatan.k12.va.us or phone 804-598-5700 extension 123 for an alternate time or delivery method.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

VDOE PARENT GUIDE

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/health_medical/office/covid-19-parent-guide.shtml

I know you may have many more questions that we hope to answer for you in the coming days and weeks ahead, but, as you can see, Powhatan County Public Schools will continue to support our students and their families during this unprecedented challenge. We will provide you with additional updates as they become available.

Stay well and be safe!