

3/18/2020

Good afternoon,

First, I appreciate the support and understanding you have shown over the last week in the face of this quickly evolving pandemic threat. I am very proud of our staff, students, and families. Everyone has pulled together to insure that we are taking care of one another, maintaining safety, and continuing to provide a quality learning experience under very challenging circumstances.

Given new guidance and information from government agencies, we have decided that **Powhatan County Public Schools will be closed through April 13, 2020.** We hope to reopen on April 14th at the conclusion of our previously scheduled Spring Break.

Given this extended closure, I am sharing additional information that will hopefully alleviate some concerns:

1. The Virginia Department of Education has applied for a waiver to cancel all SOL testing for this year. They fully anticipate that it will be approved by the Federal Government. Students will not have to worry about taking SOLs when we return.
2. That waiver will include specific language to dismiss certain graduation requirements, particularly for the Class of 2020. More details will be forthcoming.
3. Assignments completed during our closure are for enrichment and allow students to stay engaged in the content. Based on guidance from the Virginia Department of Education, **we will not be grading activities completed during the school closure.** Teachers will assess student learning when we return and make plans for teaching and assessment moving forward. Students should continue to engage with the content already provided by the division or classroom teachers. As additional materials are available or necessary, we will share them from the division-level.
4. We will not have a separate 3rd and 4th nine weeks marking period. Rather students will receive one grade for the 2nd semester. This eliminates the need for adjusting the 3rd nine weeks grading period or having a severely shortened 4th nine weeks.
5. **All PCPS facilities will be closed starting Monday, March 23rd.** Parents and students can continue to contact teachers and administrators using email or posted phone numbers on our websites.
6. We will continue weekly food distribution to any student while we are closed. Children/students must be present in order for meals to be picked up. Please contact the PCPS Food Service Department at foodservice@Powhatan.k12.va.us if you are interested in having free healthy breakfast and lunch meals provided for your child/children. Indicate how many students will be with you and whether you will pick up from Powhatan Middle or Powhatan High School.

If meal pick-up during the time noted below proves to be a hardship for you or your family, and/or if your child/children have any special dietary needs, please contact the PCPS Food Service Department at foodservice@Powhatan.k12.va.us or at 804 635-0001.

PCPS Breakfast/Lunch Meal Pickup Dates/Times/Locations

Mondays from 8:00am-10:00am – Bus Loops at Powhatan High School and Powhatan Middle School

Visit our division website <http://www.powhatan.k12.va.us/> for a comprehensive repository of COVID-19 information that includes updates, resources, and FAQs.

Have a good evening. Be safe and look out for one another. Contact us with any questions.