

# PALESTINE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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*"Palestine ISD... A World-Class Academic Organization"*

Jason Marshall  
Superintendent

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Tuesday, April 28, 2020 (4 pm)

PISD Students, Staff, and Parents,

Governor Abbott spoke yesterday about the reopening of the State of Texas. In his message, he gave the greenlight for certain businesses to reopen to the public in limited capacity beginning this weekend. He also stated that if we can keep our COVID-19 cases from spiking he will reopen other parts of our state and economy by mid-May.

Governor Abbott's message is hope for all of us but also comes at a time when we have the highest number of COVID-19 cases here in Anderson County to date. Please continue to exercise caution and to follow the CDC guidelines so that you and others around you will be safe. For those of us who have children involved in youth sports, we need to continue working hard to keep our community and county COVID-19 numbers to a minimum so that we can hopefully return those activities to our children in the upcoming weeks.

In school news, we are continuing our meal distribution and Home Learning Packets to our students. If you have any questions or concerns, please visit with your student's teacher and/or principal.

## Palestine ISD Home Learning Update:

1. Texas Public Schools are officially closed, including UIL activities, for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year.
2. Anderson County Judge Robert Johnston will most likely provide us with an update on county activities this week. Please check the City of Palestine website for that update.
3. **Student lessons for this week (4/27) are due to be returned next Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>.**
4. **Students will receive their next round of lessons (weeks of 5/4 and 5/11) on Monday, 5/4, and will be due on Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>.**
5. We will continue distributing meals at the High School campus and by school bus on Mon, Wed, Fridays.
6. The Palestine ISD Board of Trustees approved an amended high school Grade Point Average (GPA) calculation for the 2019-20 school year last night. **No grades for the spring 2020 semester will be used for GPA calculation for the 2019-20 school year.** The only grades used for 2019-20 will be 1<sup>st</sup> semester grades. **All current high school students (whether 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup> grade) will only have 7 semesters of grades used in their final high school GPA calculation.** High school students will receive numerical grades on their Spring 2020 report cards, but those numerical grades will not be used for GPA calculation. All PK-8<sup>th</sup> grade students will receive S (Satisfactory), NI (Needs Improvement), I (Incomplete) for their grades – no numerical grades. **(This policy adjustment applies only to the spring semester of the 2019-20 school year – numerical grades and the use of those grades for GPA purposes will return for the 2020-21 school year.)**
7. We appreciate everyone's patience during the current COVID-19 situation, and we also understand that it's becoming easier as the semester progresses to lose our patience from time to time. Our district administrative team has taken some time today to review our procedures and contact information in order to make sure that we are accessible and responsive to students and parents. As always, please contact us with any recommendations that you have.
8. **To our graduating seniors...**We look forward to giving your cap and gown to you this Thursday. Congratulations on that accomplishment! We are continuing to finalize graduation plans, and we look forward to sharing that experience with you.

Let's all stay safe and get our community back going again!

Jason Marshall  
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Palestine ISD