

Panther Valley School District COVID 19 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Revised April 15, 2020

How long will schools be closed?

All schools in PA will be closed for the remainder of the academic year. For further information, visit <https://www.media.pa.gov/Pages/Education-Details.aspx?newsid=829>

How will schools continue to provide instruction during the closure?

At this time, the PVSD will provide review and enrichment for the remainder of the academic year through distance learning. Those families without internet accessible devices and/or internet in their home will be able to pick up paper review materials at the designated lunch pick up spots. These materials do not need to be returned to school, as they are only meant for review and enrichment. The district is currently exploring the feasibility of delivering new instruction through distance learning.

At this time, why is the district choosing to provide only review and enrichment and not new instruction?

While the district would like to provide new instruction through distance learning, PDE has been clear that districts must ensure equity if they provide new instruction. This means all families would need an internet accessible device and internet to access new instruction. Based on data collection, approximately 20% of the families or more do not have an internet accessible device or internet in the home. The district has applied for a grant to obtain devices to allow for equity; however, it is uncertain about when or if the district would receive those devices. If we receive this grant, the district may decide to move to planned instruction and distribute technology to those families that stated they did not have access to a device.

What will happen to students' grades for the 3rd Marking Period?

The district closed the 3rd marking period with any assignments or activities that were due on or before the initial date of closure, which was Friday, March 13th, 2020. Students were given until April 10th to turn in outstanding assignments. The final grades will be posted to the Sapphire portal by April 17, 2020. There will be no paper report cards printed for the 3rd marking period.

When will the last day of school be?

The last day of school will be Friday, June 5, 2020. Distance learning will occur up until this date.

How will final grades be calculated for the 2019-2020 school year?

The district has decided that final grades will be calculated based on the grades that were tabulated for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd marking periods. If the district moves to new instruction, the 4th marking period will be pass/fail; however, the grades will not be incorporated to the students' final grade. If the district continues with review and enrichment, there will not be any grades for the 4th marking period.

Will students be promoted to the next grade?

Unless there is significant evidence noted by the child's education team (prior to the closure on March 13th, 2020) that indicates students were achieving well below grade level standards, students will be promoted to the next grade. Due to the closure, students will need to be provided with a review of content that was missed in their prior grade. All schools across Pennsylvania are facing the same challenge.

How will end of year activities, such as graduation, prom, moving up ceremonies, etc. be held?

The district recognizes the importance of these traditions; however, we must oblige by the limitations put in place by the Federal and State government to ensure the safety of all involved. As a result, a decision cannot be made at this time. If the opportunity presents itself to hold modified events or to reschedule events at a later date, the public will be informed.

How will High School Seniors receive their diploma?

The district will explore any options, at the time of graduation, to safely distribute diplomas. We understand the importance of recognizing the achievements of our graduating seniors, but we must adhere to the guidance from the Federal and State government. A decision cannot be made at this time.

How will students be awarded for their scholastic and/or athletic achievements for this school year?

Each building principal will determine whether or not awards will be presented to students for the 2019-2020 school year and how awards can be presented in a safe manner.

Will students be permitted to obtain items from their locker or desks?

At this time, to ensure safety, only essential items may be picked up by contacting your child's building principal. This includes medication, eye glasses, or other items that would be considered life sustaining. Full desk/locker clean out dates and times may be announced at a later date.

How long will lunches be distributed at the lunch locations?

At this time, lunches will be distributed at the lunch pick up locations until the last day of school. We will be inquiring about continuing this program over the summer.

When will kindergarten registration be held for the 2020-2021 school year?

Kindergarten registration is postponed indefinitely until we know when schools can safely re-open. If we are unable to hold in person registration, some type of online or phone registration will be completed until it is deemed safe to hold in person registration.

How will spring sports be impacted by the school closure?

Due to the school closing, all winter championships and spring season sports will be canceled. The PIAA remains hopeful that the summer/activities will be able to continue on July 1st. However at this point it is too early to make that decision. The PIAA would also like to remind everybody that they are taking all information from the governor's office and the department of health for the department of education of Pennsylvania.

Can outside organizations use school facilities during the closure?

No outside organizations may use school district facilities or fields while the schools remain closed. School district fields are closed to the public.

Who can I contact with questions about my child's special education programming?

You can contact your child's special education case manager if you have any questions about your child's special education programming.