

Update from Pine-Richland School District Superintendent



March 26, 2020

Greetings to Pine-Richland Students, Staff, Parents and Community,

Given the degree of change in our region and country, I hope that families are beginning to find educational routines and daily rhythm within the home. The progression of COVID-19 continues across the world, the United States and in Allegheny County. The Allegheny County Health Department expects to see increased cases in the next 2 - 3 weeks that will challenge the health care system similar to other parts of the country. Measures to slow the spread of the disease are impacting all aspects of life in significant ways. **It is our hope that the continuity of learning program at Pine-Richland can bring a sense of normalcy and routine - even with the obvious transformation of "how" school happens - to keep students and families engaged.** With that said, health and safety remains the top priority. Please communicate directly with your teacher and principal if a healthcare concern is affecting your family. Adjustments will be made to the learning activities and expectations.

Please note that we will continue to follow the [2019 - 2020 Academic Calendar](#). For example, this means that the weeks of April 6th and 13th are both three-day weeks for the amount of learning activities assigned. We will present the PRSD learning model to the Pennsylvania Department of Education to address our annual requirements. I am both confident and proud that we were collectively able to completely transform our model without interruption. It is a testament to the people - all ages - in our community. This image "snipped" from our large vision has never been more accurate. It takes all of us. It will continue to take all of us.

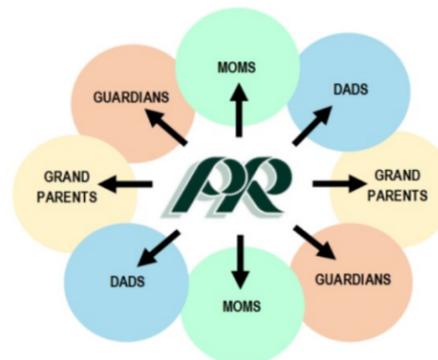


Regardless of sector, the best organizations are able to demonstrate learning and agility. It is our educational goal to embrace these new circumstances and work to improve each week. We are implementing a few strategies to accelerate our learning.

- **District** - Dr. Pasquinelli, Dr. Justus and I are conducting brief weekly phone calls with 42 families that represent all buildings, grade levels, biomes and teams. Within this group, we have students who demonstrate a wide range of interests and needs. This direct feedback is used to identify high-level strengths and opportunities for improvement. **Starting today and every Thursday, we also invite parents to complete a brief two-minute survey to provide your perspective on a series of key questions.** The results will be used as feedback to help us gauge effectiveness. In addition, an anonymous, voluntary weekly survey will also be sent from building principals to students in grades 4 - 12. The survey windows will remain open for that day. The surveys will be readministered each Thursday.
- **Building/Grade Level/Team** - In addition to building principals, teachers and paraprofessionals are receiving feedback through the virtual "Office Hours" and "Individual Check-ins." In addition to the student progress on learning activities, these checkpoints are helping us understand how we can "tweak" the planning.

As one example of learning, I will introduce a concept that emerged from one of our 42 families last week. A parent indicated that she would be willing to serve as a resource for logistics, etc. for a biome at Eden Hall. In her case, she has one child in school and felt pretty good about the game plan at home. This idea of "people helping people" led to the image "PR PRIDE: A Community for Learning." At all four elementary schools, the principals will work with PTO officers to determine how we can build a "volunteer network" to help with structure, communication and logistics. The "learning" questions will still go to the teachers, but the "other" questions or clarifications can be supported by a network of volunteer parents. Simply put, there may be a couple of parents or guardians in a grade level or biome who have the willingness to help out with some basic questions. Parents may be more comfortable reaching out to a fellow parent for some topics. Given the team planning model we are using, the volunteer individuals (e.g. moms, dads, grandparents, and other guardians) would need to represent each grade level by building or biome in grades K-6.

PR PRIDE: A COMMUNITY FOR LEARNING



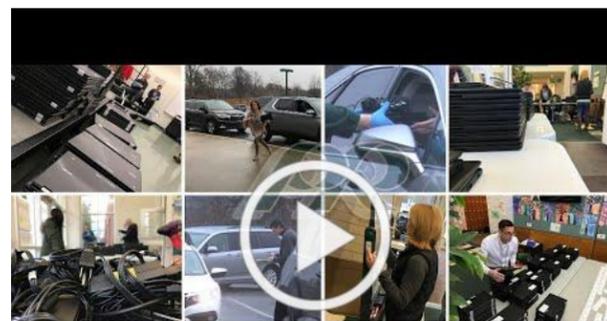
Thank you for your continued support of the Pine-Richland School District. Unless a significant topic emerges, our next district-level update will be sent next Thursday, April 2nd. As a final note and example of innovation, the deployment of Chromebook computers was captured in a short video titled "[PR Pride: 1 to 1 in 1](#)."

Respectfully,

Brian R. Miller, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Michael Pasquinelli, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent (7-12)

Kristen Justus, Ph.D.
Assistant Superintendent (K-6)



PR PRIDE: 1-to-1 in 1



[COVID-19 Website](#)

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