



December 7, 2020

Dear Families of the Greater Johnstown School District Community,

Yesterday, December 6, I sent a communication to inform you that **Pleasant Avenue Elementary School** would be operating on a fully remote (“hybrid-at-home”) schedule for all students beginning today, December 7, through and including Wednesday, December 23, with the reminder that the holiday break begins Thursday, December 24.

### **New Announcement: GJSD, K-12, shifting to "hybrid-at-home" instruction and learning**

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COVID-19 continues to evolve quickly, and as it does, our school community is impacted. Therefore, because of factors outside our control (quarantine periods, testing timelines, etc.), **the entire District will shift instruction to the "hybrid-at-home" model (all remote instruction and learning), K-12**, beginning Tuesday, December 8 through and including Wednesday, December 23. District-wide, we will continue to follow the “Purple” and “Gold” schedule already established.

We are, of course, working closely with Fulton County Public Health (FCPH) and following all the safety measures we know have made our schools safe for students and employees alike. I would like to mention that schools are not responsible for the spread of COVID-19. We have all practiced the safety protocols that make schools very safe (face coverings, physical distancing, cleaning and disinfecting). That being said, the District has made this decision out of an abundance of caution and so that we can focus on the best instruction we can offer our students at this time.

### **Important information for all our District families**

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#### **Pleasant Avenue Elementary School Information**

- Virtual Literacy Night: Join us on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. for our virtual literacy night. <https://zoom.us/j/95147157997?pwd=c3VYMdhhEakp1RVp1cWlLUUdaTDdmdz09>
- Materials pick-up for all students will be Wednesday, December 9 at the following times: 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.; 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; and 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Please use the bus loop. Families should remain in their cars. Face coverings should be worn at all times, and physical distancing will be necessary.
- Report cards, school pictures, and instructional materials will be distributed at the times of materials pick-up. (*Class pictures will be distributed after holiday break.*)
- C&H fundraiser will be sent to students’ homes
- Further information will be forthcoming from PA Principal, Mrs. Cory Cotter

#### **Warren Street Elementary School Information**

- Materials pick-up for all students will be Wednesday, December 9 at the following times: 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.; 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; and 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Families should remain in their cars. Face coverings should be worn at all times, and physical distancing will be necessary
- Report cards, school pictures, and instructional materials will be distributed at the times of materials pick-up. (*Class pictures will be distributed after holiday break.*)

- C&H fundraiser will be sent to students' homes.
- Further information will be forthcoming from WSS Principal, Mr. Bob Kraemer.

### **Johnstown Junior-Senior High School Information**

- All students in grades 7-12, whether enrolled in the hybrid or fully remote learning model, should follow their course schedule and attend Zoom according to their class period schedule and color cohort. Students should note that each Zoom session is a required part of the school day and all school rules for behavior should be followed. Please see information below regarding scheduling.
  - **Purple Hybrid Students:** attend live classes via ZOOM on Mondays and Thursdays each week of closure. They would then access On-Demand instruction on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, as they have done throughout the school year.
  - **Gold Hybrid Students:** attend live classes via ZOOM on Tuesdays and Fridays each week of closure. They would then access On-Demand instruction on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, as they have done throughout the school year.
  - **Fully Remote Students:** follow their normal schedule with a slight adjustment to class period times. Students should continue to use the same ZOOM links.
  - **BOCES Career & Technical Education (CTE) Students:** will attend CTE programs, and transportation will be provided.
- Teachers will continue to be available each Wednesday for their scheduled office hours and will have additional office hours on M, T, Th and F. A schedule of office hours will be posted on the district website and Zoom links will be shared in the teacher's Google classrooms. We strongly encourage students to use these office hours for support.
- Further information will be forthcoming from JJSJS Principal, Mr. Scott Hale.

### **GJSD Special Education**

- All *in-district* 8:1:1 and 12:1:1 classes at PA, Warren, and JJSJS will be *shifting to remote only instruction*. Students will follow a daily schedule provided by teachers.
- BOCES Special Education Programs will continue as "normal". Any changes will be announced when necessary and through BOCES and Parent Square.
- Student therapy services will be provided through tele-therapy (*OT, PT, Speech, Counseling*). It is important that students log on for therapy sessions at their scheduled times with providers.

### **Technology**

- Our Technology Director, Mrs. Rachel Heroth, will communicate through Parent Square to support families and their students.

### **Knox Pre-Kindergarten Program**

- At this time, YMCA-administered pre-kindergarten programs will continue as "normal". Any changes will be announced when necessary and through Parent Square.

### **BOCES Career and Technical Education and BOCES Special Education Programs**

- 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade PTECH students will shift to remote learning through December 16 and return to in-person instruction on December 17<sup>th</sup>
- At this time, all other BOCES CTE and BOCES Special Education Programs will continue as "normal." Any changes will be announced when necessary and through BOCES and Parent Square.

### **School Meals**

School breakfast and lunch remain available for FREE for all GJSD students. During this period of remote learning, families can pick up meals two days each week on Mondays and Wednesdays, receiving seven days' worth of pre-packaged breakfast and lunch – 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the front loop entrance of the

Junior-Senior High School. Menus are available online. Please look for notices on Parent Square for additional information.

**Extra-Curricular Activities, including Athletics**

Until further notice, due to present conditions and the desire to stem any spread of COVID-19 and prioritize academic learning, **all extra-curricular activities for all students, including athletics, will be postponed until a later time**, to be announced by the District through our Athletic Director, Mr. Michael Satterlee.

**Child Care**

The YMCA child care program (grade K - age 12) has informed the District that there are spots available by calling Kim Dandino at 518-848-3447, ext. 179.

Please rest assured that our priority is protecting the health, welfare, and safety of our students, employees and community, while complying with all government orders and guidelines related to the ongoing pandemic. Remember that if your child experiences any **symptoms of COVID-19**, please keep them home from school and contact your healthcare provider for further guidance.

Sincerely,

William Crankshaw  
Superintendent of Schools