



Peekskill City School District

Our mission is to educate and empower all students to strive for excellence as life-long learners who embrace diversity and are contributing members of a global society.

Dr. David Mauricio
Superintendent of Schools

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April 11, 2020

Dear Peekskill Families,

I hope this message finds you all well as we still continue to adjust to our new routines. Since the month began, I have hosted or participated in virtual live-streamed events to remain engaged with the community despite our buildings' closures:

- **Virtual Conversation with the Superintendent** hosting special guests Mayor Rainey, Youth Bureau Director Mrs. McDonald and PTO Executive Member Mrs. Pipolo (680+ participants). The video of that live-stream is available for viewing [here](#).
- **Peekskill High School Seniors' Virtual Informational Session** co-hosted with Principal Mr. Arthur and Assistant Superintendent Mr. Callahan on April 9th joined by 800+ participants. You can view the video of the senior meeting [here](#).
- **Peekskill Coronavirus Stakeholder Virtual Meeting** led by City leadership to synergize our efforts. This event was streamed on the City's website.
- **Youth Bureau Virtual Teen Hall** hosted by Youth Bureau Director Mrs. McDonald to focus on engaging our youth in positive ways to help them through this time of need.

Upcoming Live Sessions:

- **Peekskill Middle School Virtual Informational Session** for students, parents and staff, co-hosted with Principal Mr. Lewis and Assistant Superintendent Mr. Callahan. There will be a live showing on Wednesday, April 15th at 11 a.m. on the District's website (www.peekskillcsd.org - scroll down to view the video).
- **Peekskill High School Grades 9 to 11 Virtual Informational Session** for students and parents. There will be a live showing on Thursday, April 16th at 11 a.m. on the District's website (www.peekskillcsd.org - scroll down to view the video).

Principals' Virtual Weekly Messages:

These weekly messages can be found on each schools' webpage. Go to our District webpage; click on select a school at the top; and scroll down to the video message (see links below): Also, follow the District, me, our administrators and staff on Facebook and Twitter for virtual game shows, Athletic newsletters, videos, and other exciting opportunities to engage with our District.

- [Uriah Hill](#)
- [Woodside](#)
- [Oakside](#)
- [Hillcrest](#)
- [Middle School](#)

- [High School](#)

Additional upcoming events:

- Conversation with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Director every Wednesday from 5 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.:
 - [Join Hangouts Meet](#) meet.google.com/dng-kopw-sdm
 - Join by phone +1 413-351-4063 PIN: 259 167 075#
- **Athletic Director Austin Goldberg's Spring Newsletter.** [Click here](#) for the Newsletter showcasing our athletes and coaches.

Elementary Continued Learning: Phase II

Our elementary Distance Learning program is moving into its second phase, continuing with opportunities for both online and traditional paper-based learning for our Pre-K- Grade 5 students. This will provide our families with two options based on their needs. Phase II resources include teacher selected online videos, materials and activities, as well as pre-printed/print-from-home educational resources for students who work best with hard copy materials. These resources will continue to be enhanced as we move forward. Currently, our elementary teachers are participating in Google Classroom training to assist in aligning our elementary Continued Learning experiences with those of our secondary buildings. Many elementary teachers are already engaging in on-line Google Classroom instruction.

Elementary (Pre-K -Grade 5) Continued Learning packet pick-up will be available Monday, April 13 - Friday, April 17 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Oakside Elementary and Peekskill High School. Distribution will be self-service. Please be sure to pick your child's packet from the appropriate grade level bin. These resources will also be available on building websites as of Monday, April 13 for the option of printing at home.

Parents, please remember to have students continue to check online for daily messages from building principals and teachers. These messages can be found on Teacher pages and/or Google Classrooms. If you or your child are experiencing any difficulties with the online format, please reach out to your child's teacher.

Secondary Exams

This week, the NYS Board of Regents issued a statement which included the cancellation of the June **Regents Exams**. For a detailed explanation of what this means for our students, please [read this press release](#) from the NYS Department of Education. You can also see this list of [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) for more information regarding Regents and graduation requirements. Additional guidance regarding the August administration of the Regents Exams will be released at a later date.

Please note that students taking Spanish I and Spanish III will also be exempt from the State's **Spanish Exams** as long as they finish the class with a passing grade and earn credit for the course.

The **College Board's Advanced Placement Exams** remain scheduled for May. Students will be receiving additional information regarding AP testing from their teachers and the high school Guidance Department. The exams will be in an online format.

Technology Access:

If any student in Grade 6-12 does not have access to technology to complete their assigned school work, please visit Uriah Hill Elementary on Tuesday, April 14 or Thursday, April 16 from 9:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. to sign out a Chromebook. A parent or guardian must come to complete the appropriate paperwork.

Meal Distribution:

As a reminder, our breakfast and lunch "Grab and Go" bags continue to be served Monday - Friday to any Peekskill student to bring home. Distribution will take place from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Oakside Elementary and Peekskill High School. Feeding Westchester is also providing non-perishables as part of the grab and go program during these times. Families can visit either site. A big thank you to our food service, security and custodians for all of your hardwork and dedication to provide healthy meals to our families.

In closing, I'd like to take a moment to share that our District's Continued Learning efforts were featured as the cover story for the April 6 edition of the New York State School Board Association's newspaper, On Board. The piece highlights the hard work, dedication and creativity of our Peekskill staff during these challenging times. This recognition is a testament to our entire District's commitment to our school community. I hope you will join me in taking pride in the hard work of our staff, as it is a product born from the love we feel for our students. To read the article, [please click here.](#)

On behalf of our Board of Education, thank you administrators, teachers, staff, community leaders, parents and guardians for your dedication to the children. For those of you who celebrate this religious time of the year, I wish you (and everyone) a blessed weekend. Stay well, Peekskill.

Sincerely,



Dr. David Mauricio
Superintendent of Schools

Enjoy these curated additional On-line Resources:

[PBS Resources](#)

Resources from the State Museum, Library, and Archives

- [Virtual Field Trips](#)
- [Museum Exhibitions](#)

Jacob Burns Film Center [video offerings.](#)