



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

Administration Center, 1031 Elm Street, Peekskill, NY 10566-3499
Phone: (914)737-3300 ext. 1531 Fax: (914) 737-3722
Email: dmauricio@peekskillschools.org

March 13, 2020

Dear Peekskill City School District Families,

The health and safety of our students, staff and families is of the utmost importance to the Peekskill City School District. This morning, nearly all of the superintendents from the Lower Hudson Valley met with New York State officials, a legislative representative, and State Education Department officials to discuss the public health concern that the COVID-19 coronavirus poses to our communities and our schools. In this meeting, there was a collective concern for the safety of our students, staff, and our respective communities.

In response to these concerns, I am announcing that all Peekskill Schools will be closed on Monday, March 16, 2020 and Tuesday, March 17, 2020. This means that there will be no school, extracurricular activities or transportation for out-of-district students on these two days. This school closure will be consistent with the model of social distancing that has been recommended by the CDC and many medical professionals. Please note that at this time, Peekskill City Schools have had **NO** confirmed cases of COVID-19, and that we are closing as a precautionary measure. Our team of administrators continue to educate ourselves about this situation as it develops and we monitor and review new information as it becomes available on a daily basis.

As a region, it is our expectation that we will soon obtain further guidance from New York State related to our questions and concerns that were articulated at today's superintendent's meeting. Based upon the information available to us on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, the status of our school closing will be re-evaluated and decisions for next steps will be made at that time. It would be prudent for parents and staff to begin preparing for an extended school closing. In the event of long term closing, our administrators, faculty and staff have worked diligently to prepare continued learning opportunities for our students. In addition, we have created a plan to continue to provide "grab and go" breakfast and lunch to our students, which will start immediately on Monday, March 16. More details on the continued learning opportunities and food service will follow. Our website will be updated with this information shortly.

We understand the challenges and hardships that this closure may pose for our families. Please trust that this was not an easy decision for any school district. However, we believe that this is the best decision for our Peekskill Schools community.

We will communicate any further developments as they become available and will send an updated communication as soon as possible. I thank you for your continued support and flexibility during this unprecedented time in our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Mauricio". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. David Mauricio
Superintendent of Schools