



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 20, 2020

Dear Peekskill Families,

I hope this message finds you all well as we adjust to this challenging situation. Our school community has shown incredible resilience over the past week. It brings me joy to see our staff and families working together to help our students continue their learning. This support and collaboration is a testament of the unity in our community, and we remain strong through this unprecedented time.

I would like to provide you with a few important updates from Peekskill Schools:

School Closure Dates:

At this time, Peekskill schools will remain closed until March 31, as per Governor Cuomo's Executive Order. Schools are scheduled to reopen on Wednesday, April 1. Please note that this date may change and we will continue to update you as information becomes available.

State Assessments:

The New York State Education department has announced that the administrations of the 2020 elementary- and intermediate-level State assessments have been suspended for the remainder of this school year. This suspension for the remainder of the school year applies to the following New York State assessments:

- New York State Grades 3-8 English Language Arts Test;
- New York State Grades 3-8 Mathematics Test;
- New York State Grade 4 Elementary-Level Science Test;
- New York State Grade 8 Intermediate-Level Science Test;
- New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) in Grades K-12; and
- New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) for students with severe cognitive disabilities in Grades 3-8 and high school.

At this time, all New York State High School Regents Exams and Advanced Placement Exams are still scheduled to be administered. I will update you if this changes.

Spring Recess:

At this time, we ask you to please stay tuned as to the effect our closures will have on spring break, as no definitive answer has been made and we are awaiting further information from the State. It would be wise to prepare for the possibility that our closures may disrupt our regularly scheduled calendar.

Meal Distribution:

Breakfast and lunch "Grab and Go" bags will be served Monday - Friday from 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. for any Peekskill student to bring home. Distribution will take place in all school building parking lots, except for Uriah Hill. Uriah Hill families can pick up meals at any building they choose. Parents with students in multiple schools can get meals at one site. You will be asked to share the names of all of your school-aged children. There will be no access to the inside of the buildings. We appreciate your patience and assistance during this process.

Special Services:

Next week, the Special Services Department will distribute occupational and physical therapy (OT/PT) packets. These will be available for pick-up during meal distribution time slots (9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.) Tuesday-Friday via a self-service box at your building.

Wi-Fi Availability:

If a student's home does not have Wi-Fi, please contact your local cable provider and ask for assistance. Optimum/Altice is offering free WI-FI to those who qualify. The City of Peekskill also has a free Wi-Fi hotspot by the pool area in Depew Park. Log on to either the "Creative Preschool Guest" or "Poolarea" networks to access this hotspot.

Continued Learning Packets and Reading:

The few Continued Learning Packets for Pre-K to Grade 5 students that were not picked up this week, will be mailed to you this weekend by U.S. Mail service. Please reach out to your building Principal if you do not receive your student(s) packet in the mail next week. Please continue to visit our District website for new information on web resources for families. Also, it is important that you read to and with your child daily. Older students can read on their own daily.

Peekskill Grounds are Closed for Public Use:

All Peekskill School District grounds and facilities are currently closed to the public. We are not fully staffed to maintain our athletic facilities or playgrounds. We encourage you to public trails, parks and areas that have remain open to the public. Please remember the importance of social distancing and to avoid playground use, as the COVID-19 virus may be able to live on plastic and metal surfaces for prolonged periods of time.

Thank you for your continued patience, flexibility and support. Please remember to check our website and social media accounts regularly for updates. We also urge our families to follow the social distancing guidelines recommended by numerous health organizations and government leaders. Remember that these school closures are not vacations, rather they are intended to offer the opportunity for public health safety. To the extent that you are able, please stay home and stay safe. We will be keeping all of our families in our hearts and thoughts during this time.

Sincerely,



Dr. David Mauricio
Superintendent of Schools

