



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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Dear Peekskill City Schools Families,

I hope this letter finds our families well and that you are settling in comfortably as best you can as we adjust to our new routines. The last few weeks have brought a change many of us could have never imagined a few short months ago, yet here we are, showing resilience and persevering as a community. While we all continue to make the best of this rapidly developing situation, we at Peekskill City Schools remain committed to keeping our families informed. This letter includes numerous updates for the immediate future. Please remember that as circumstances change, plans may change as well.

Non-Instructional Days & Spring Recess

Please note that **Friday, March 27 and Monday, March 30 are non-instructional days**, therefore there will be no assignments posted from your student's instructors on those two dates. Additionally, as previously approved, our district calendar has Spring Recess scheduled for April 6-April 10. No assignments will be posted during this time as well. We have chosen to use our remaining two Emergency Closure days on March 27 and March 30 and keep our Spring Recess as scheduled in order to maintain our compliance with NYS guidelines regarding the required number of instructional days per school year.

Accessing Online Resources

By this time I hope that both our families and our students are beginning to get comfortable with our online learning and support resources. Elementary students should be working on their take-home packets and checking in with their teachers online via Teacher Pages, school email or teacher assigned apps. Secondary students should be logging into their Google Classroom classes daily for assignments and responding to teacher messages. If you have questions about online expectations for students, please email your child's teacher.

Regents and AP Exams

At this time, the high school Regents Exams are still proceeding as planned. Advanced Placement (AP) Exams are now scheduled to be taken online and will be a 45 minute timed test. More details will follow.

Prom & Graduation

We know the middle school dance, senior Prom and graduations are on the forefront of many secondary students' minds right now and we understand that the uncertainty is challenging for our students and families. We will work with our middle and high school administrators and staff to monitor how the closings will impact the Prom, dance and graduations. At this time, we ask that students do not purchase outfits for the prom until we know more. We are proceeding as normal in preparing for June graduations. It is our goal to ensure our graduating students have the best possible outcome given this unprecedented scenario. In the event of any changes, you will be informed as soon as possible.

Meal Distribution

We will be combining site locations for our “Grab & Go” meal programs beginning Monday, March 30:

Where: Meals will be distributed at Oakside Elementary and Peekskill High School only.

When: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

What: Hot, reheatable meals for students

Who: Both sites are open to all students and families.

Please note that during our scheduled Spring Recess, meals will be available Monday, April 6 thru Thursday, April 9 ONLY. There will be NO meal service on Friday, April 10.

Childcare For Essential Employees

Per the Governor’s mandate, we are offering childcare for emergency responders (Police, Fire, EMT), healthcare professionals or other essential employees in need of emergency childcare to go to work. [Please fill out this form](#) for more information and someone from the district will get back to you regarding the program. Please note that childcare will only be provided when you are **scheduled** to work and parents must show work identification.

Next Steps

We are working on plans in preparation for the possibility that schools may remain closed for longer than we initially expected. We have accomplished a tremendous amount since we navigated to online learning on March 16, but there is still much work to be done. At this time, we are reviewing our recent work and monitoring the effectiveness of these efforts. We will continue to work with our staff as we plan our next steps as a district.

In conclusion, I want to once again thank our school community for their unwavering support of the district, and of each other, during this time of need. While reviewing our District calendar the other night, I was reminded that this month’s Commitment to Character theme is “Courage and Perseverance.” As many of you know, each month we highlight students and/or staff that have gone above and beyond to exhibit our themed traits. This month, I am proud to say that each of you have embraced this month’s theme and I recognize you all as shining examples of Peekskill Pride.

Stay well, Peekskill.

Sincerely,



Dr. David Mauricio
Superintendent of Schools