



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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May 29, 2020

Dear Peekskill Families,

We are one week closer to the end of the academic school year. As we approach the conclusion of the 2019-2020 school year, it is more important than ever to encourage our students to finish the school year strong. That being said, we understand that families are dealing with varying challenges and our thoughts and prayers go out to those impacted by health related matters. We also understand that many children have reached a point in which they would rather be outside enjoying the warmer and sunnier weather. I know these realities all too well as a father. If we have learned anything from the past two months, it is that we must remember to be flexible when life does not follow our plans, and to be open to making the best of change and challenges. Please reach out to our staff to let them know of any challenges that may be getting in the way.

To this end, please take a few minutes to fill out this survey for each of your children as we are planning for the opening of school next year. Your input is invaluable to our planning teams. Click on this link to [share your important feedback here](#).

Last Day of School

On June 2, we expect the Peekskill Board of Education to approve a revised end date for the academic school year. This will make the last day of school June 19 for all students and staff Pre-K through Grade 12.

School in September

We have received several questions regarding what school will look like in the fall. The Peekskill City School District is committed to providing all students and staff a safe and secure learning environment that supports the whole child. While we are waiting for guidance from Governor Cuomo and from the NYS Education Department in June, we have launched our "Reopening of Schools" planning teams. I formed a committee of stakeholder representatives, including parents, teachers and administrators selected by the leadership of each of these entities to prepare for three scenarios:

- The first is the **full reopening of schools** with all students attending on the first day of school.
- The second is a **partial reopening of schools** where some students attend school each day (for example, half of the class attends school on certain days of the week to minimize the class size.)
- The third scenario is a **full virtual opening of school** where students are learning from home.

Again, this is all dependent upon the Governor's guidance. We will continue to update our families on our plans as more information becomes available.

Elementary Student Belongings

Please be advised that there will be an opportunity for elementary school parents to pick up their child's belongings at the schools during the last week of June. Parents will drive up to the school where the student's

belongings will be given to you. Details will be communicated once the exact times and dates are finalized. Thank you for your patience while elementary administrators finish coordinating these efforts.

PKMS Moving Up Ceremony and Student Belongings:

PKMS students will soon be allowed to pick up their belongings at the school. Principal Lewis will be sending a message to families next week with details about item pick-up. Students will be scheduled to arrive at school; they will be socially distanced; **and must bring and wear a mask to enter the school.** Information regarding the Grade 8 Moving Up Ceremony will also be shared at this time.

PHS Student Belongings

A letter to high school families went out this week which provided information students will need to access the building to clean out their lockers. Please [see this letter and schedule](#) for plan details. **All students must bring and wear a mask to enter the school.**

Virtual School Transition Meet & Greet

Are you children going to a new school? Are your neighbors considering enrolling their children in our schools? Join our building Principals for their upcoming virtual school tours! [Click here for a flyer](#) with dates and times for each session.

PTO Meet the Candidate Forum

On June 1 at 7PM, the Peekskill PTO will be hosting a live virtual forum where residents can meet the Board of Education candidates. The discussion will be led by a forum moderator from The League of Women Voters via live stream from the Peekskill CSD website. If you would like to suggest a potential question for the candidates, please email: advocacy@peekskillpto.org. You can [read our candidates' biographies here](#).

Class of 2020 Virtual Town Hall Meeting for PHS Graduates and Parents/Guardians:

On Monday, June 1, at 11 a.m., please visit our District website and scroll down to view our next PHS Town Hall live broadcast. This session will include the latest information for PHS graduates. Visit: <https://www.peekskillcsd.org/>

Annual Budget Vote and School Board Elections

Finally, I urge all eligible voters to have their voices heard in our annual Budget Vote and School Board Elections. Please keep an eye out for absentee ballots arriving in your mailbox shortly. Ballots must be returned by mail by 5PM on June 9. You may also drop ballots off in person on June 9 (one day only) from 9AM-5PM at our District Administration Building, located at 1031 Elm Street. All [Budget Vote/School Board Election information can be found here](#) on our website. Please also take time to review our [Budget newsletter](#), which will also be arriving by mail shortly.

I will continue to send weekly updates as we approach the end of the school year. Please keep an eye out for these weekly Friday messages, or [visit our website for an archive](#) of the letters

On behalf of the Board of Education and staff, we wish you a safe and healthy week.

Sincerely,



Dr. David Mauricio
Superintendent of Schools