



# SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNICATION BRIEF

SEPTEMBER 1- 12, 2020

Thank you to everyone who came together to support the 6th Annual Back-to-School Book Bag and school supply giveaway! A special thank you to the Peekskill Youth Bureau team, Executive Director Mrs. Tuesday McDonald and various other local contributors. Together, we were able to provide approximately 1,000 book bags, school supplies and physical education “to go bags” to Peekskill students. We appreciate all of our donors and the volunteers that made the day a great success.



The first day of school was definitely different this year, but we were still just as excited to see our students logged in to their virtual classes and ready to learn! School Board President Mr. Allen Jenkins, Jr., Superintendent Mauricio, Assistant Superintendents Dr. Mary Keenan Foster and Mr. Dan Callahan visited school buildings to see what our virtual learning model looked like in action. The group saw teachers highly engaged with their students, parents picking up Chromebooks, school leaders collaborating with staff. They were even able to see the new interactive boards at the middle school in action. [Click here](#) for a school re-opening article on PCSD from the Peekskill-Cortland Patch.



Dr. Mauricio was joined by district and building administrators for a reopening check in at the close of opening day. During the meeting, the team reviewed the day's details and discussed opportunities for improvements as we continue to move forward in a virtual model until September 21. We have worked on and improved our teacher's wifi access. We appreciate everyone's patience as we work through some lingering challenges that are facing regional school districts.



Members of our Athletic Department were on hand at the backpack giveaway to distribute our Physical Education to-go bags to students in Grades K-5. It was so great to see our students using these supplies during their first PE classes. Thank you again to the PTO for helping to support this initiative. Also, thank you Athletic Director Austin Goldberg and the physical education teachers for volunteering their time to hand out the equipment to students.



Peekskill administrators recently boarded a bus and rode to each school in our district to do a “dry run” of arrival procedures with building principals and staff. Upon arrival, these “students” had their temperatures taken, were instructed where to enter the buildings, and were asked to use the hand sanitizer stations as they entered our schools. To ensure our staff are prepared to address a variety of scenarios on the first day of student attendance, which is on September 21, our administrative team presented school leaders with a variety of “what-if” situations. Our school teams are ready. This is just another way we are working together to keep our schools a safe and healthy place for our students and staff!



Dr. Mauricio and PCSD Parent, Family and Community Liaison Mrs. Maria Olivier-Flores met with the Peekskill Area Pastors Association leadership to discuss community connectivity and plan for ways to help enhance wi-fi access for our students. These community leaders will continue these conversations within their respective organizations. Two local churches had already offered to host “wifi hub” sites for students.



The Peekskill City School District congratulates Superintendent of Schools Dr. David Mauricio who has been named a “2020 Superintendent to Watch” by the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA). Dr. Mauricio joins 24 district leaders from across the country who were selected for this award. Honorees are recognized for using communication technology in innovative and effective ways to engage and inform their school communities. Additionally, award recipients are noted to have demonstrated dynamic, fast-paced leadership with strong communication at its core, thus contributing to expanding their district’s two-way communication and outreach efforts. Dr. Mauricio stated, “I am humbled to receive this award and accept it on behalf of the Board of Education, our staff and community partners who have helped us reach this goal. It is truly a joint effort!”



Dr. Mauricio recently joined other area superintendents at the Hudson Valley Chamber of Commerce's virtual breakfast to present on school reopening plans. Dr. Mauricio spoke about our learning models, technology access, our district's health and safety measures, new school building entry protocols and more.



Shout out to the clinical team at Hillcrest Elementary who hand-beaded mask holders for the faculty and staff in the building. The kind gesture was meant to remind our teachers and staff about self-care, and that we all need to remember to “take a breath” while keeping our masks handy.



We would like to inform our student-athletes and their families, as well as our PCSD sports fans, that at this time, the New York State Department of Health has labeled Cross Country, Soccer, Traditional Cheer and Girls Swimming low-risk and the Section One Executive Committee has approved the start of these sports starting September 29. Football, Competitive Cheer and Volleyball have been labeled high-risk and have had their start date moved to March 2021. Please note, Section 1 Athletics may move Girls Swimming to March 2021 due to lack of pool availability of majority of Section 1 schools. If you are the parent of a student-athlete, please have them register for [FamilyID](#), as this is the best way for our Athletics Department and Coaches to communicate with families as we receive more information and updates.

Register online with

FamilyID<sup>®</sup>

(and save a ton of time!)



Our Peekskill Strong store is open for a limited time! [Click here](#) to see the available apparel. A portion of each order will benefit the PTO and their partnership with our school community. Thank you for your support!



The District has expanded our wi-fi hubs hours and locations for any student in need of wi-fi access. Hubs have also been established at the Youth Bureau and The Field Library, and Assumption Church will be added as a hub as of Monday, September 14. Students in grades Pre-K through Grade 5 must be accompanied by an adult or a sibling who is 16+ years old when attending these hubs. [Please click here](#) more information on times and locations. Masks must be worn by individuals while visiting these hub locations.



Breakfast and lunch "grab and go" bags will be served Monday - Friday to any Peekskill student to bring home. Pick-up locations will be at Oakside and Peekskill High School sites. Families can visit either site from 10AM-12PM.



Our first round of Parent Technology Boot Camps were such a success, we are hosting a second set of classes! Please join us for a FREE 2 hour Technology Boot Camp that will assist in supporting your child(en) with virtual learning. This is an introduction to the internet - learn how to set up your email, learn how to log-in to Google Classroom, Google Meets and more. You must pre-register for the sessions - space is limited! To register please contact Maria Olivier-Flores at 914-739-0682 x 7102 or Jessica Rondon at [jrondon@peekskillschools.org](mailto:jrondon@peekskillschools.org).



## Peekskill City School District Parent Technology Boot Camp



***Please join us for a 2 hour Technology Boot Camp that will assist in supporting your child/dren with virtual learning! This is an introduction to various District Communication platforms, how to log in and sign out of a Chromebook, how to log in to Google Classroom, how to join a Google Meets and more.***

<b><i>Tuesday September 15th</i></b>	<b><i>Thursday September 17th</i></b>
<b><i>4:30 - 6:30 PM Uriah Hill School 980 Pemart Ave English Session</i></b>	<b><i>4:30 - 6:30 PM Uriah Hill School 980 Pemart Ave Spanish Session</i></b>
<b><i>Tuesday September 22nd</i></b>	<b><i>Thursday September 24th</i></b>
<b><i>4:30 - 6:30 PM Uriah Hill School 980 Pemart Ave Spanish Session</i></b>	<b><i>4:30 - 6:30 PM Uriah Hill School 980 Pemart Ave English Session</i></b>

***You must pre register for the sessions - Space is limited!!  
To register please contact Maria Olivier-Flores at 914-739-0682 x 7102  
or Jessica Rondon at [jrondon@peekskillschools.org](mailto:jrondon@peekskillschools.org)***

***Please note we will be following all CDC guidelines - you must wear a mask during the session.***

Have a great week of continued virtual learning!

Dr. David Mauricio  
Superintendent of Schools