

# PALESTINE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

*"Palestine ISD... A World-Class Academic Organization"*

Jason Marshall  
Superintendent

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Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (12 pm)

PISD Students, Staff, and Parents;

This letter serves as a reminder that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Six weeks/1<sup>st</sup> Semester ends tomorrow, Friday the 18<sup>th</sup>. **Students will be dismissed at noon** (for the exact dismissal time, see your campus' schedule), and all students will have an opportunity to eat breakfast and lunch at school. PISD will re-open our campuses for staff members on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 for a workday. **Then, students will return to school on Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, at our normal start time.** We don't receive a lot of snow/icy weather in Palestine during the winter months, but you may want to double check your contact information with your campus in case we need to notify you via school messenger over the holidays of a weather shutdown.

You may have heard that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has revised the guidelines for the length of Covid-19 quarantines. While the guidelines have been updated, the revisions don't change much for the way PISD will operate. Basically, the revisions allow staff members to return to work (if Covid negative and no symptoms) a few days earlier than prior to December 1<sup>st</sup>. But, keep in mind that Anderson County has been and continues to be one of the "hottest Covid-19 spots" in Texas, so please continue being mindful of the spread of Covid-19, review safety precautions on the CDC website, and continue performing a daily self-check.

Throughout most of the first semester, we have had approximately 500 students participating in our 100% Home Learning Program. After reviewing those students' attendance and academic performance, our campuses have made the decision to require some of those students to return to campus for in-person instruction. For those students who are returning for the first time this school year, I encourage you to communicate with your teacher(s) and academic counselor prior to January 5<sup>th</sup> in order to ensure your course schedule is accurate.

During the Christmas holidays, PISD will continue cleaning and disinfecting our buildings. We will work to ensure our buildings are as clean as possible by the time students and staff return in January. Also, PISD will take an additional Covid-19 safety precaution by installing clear, plexiglass dividers between desks in classrooms. By installing the dividers, we will take an extra step in trying to stop the spread of germs between students in classrooms (especially during the coughing, etc season).

**When we return to school on Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, PISD will implement the original school calendar adopted by the Board of Trustees last spring (attached).** We are not scheduling any additional home learning days during the spring semester. In other words, students will attend school on Fridays except as scheduled (holidays, etc) on the original school calendar.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Jason Marshall  
Superintendent  
Palestine ISD