

# PALESTINE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Jason Marshall  
Superintendent

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Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (12 pm)

PISD Students, Staff, and Parents,

As you know, the last 7-10 days have been difficult for us to provide a quality classroom experience for our students. The number of persons who are being required to quarantine at the high school has made it impossible to have in person classes on that campus. We also have several staff members out on other campuses. We are trying our best to shuffle staff around so that we can continue our in-person learning on our other campuses as we know how important it is for students to be able to come to school.

Please read the following two important notices:

1. **We will have another Home Learning Day for all students next Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>.** So, the last day of in-person learning prior to the Thanksgiving holidays for all campuses (except Palestine HS) will be next Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. *(There are no in-person classes at PHS until after Thanksgiving.)* We will make a decision next week about the Friday schedule after Thanksgiving, and I will make you aware of that decision prior to dismissing for the holidays. Right now, it looks very strongly like we will continue our Friday home learning through the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester.
2. As I stated previously, we are strongly committed to continuing in-person learning between now and Thanksgiving for all campuses except Palestine HS. But, I want to give you advance notice that we are very close (due to the number of staff members who are on quarantine) to not being able to continue providing in-person learning for all students prior to Thanksgiving. **Parents – please prepare yourselves in case we have to discontinue our in-person learning at all campuses.** It is not our intention to make this call until we see what our Covid situation is at the beginning of next week. Please stay in close contact with your student's teacher(s) and/or principal. As soon as we make the decision, I will let you know.

I can't tell you how much we appreciate your patience during this difficult time for our school district and community. As I visit with other school superintendents in our region and state, they are shocked at the number of Covid cases we have in our area and are amazed that we have been able to maintain our commitment to in-person learning. Again, thank you for your assistance and cooperation as we continue to manage this situation.

Sincerely,

Jason Marshall  
Superintendent  
Palestine ISD