

# PALESTINE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Jason Marshall  
Superintendent

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Wednesday, October 7, 2020 (9 am)

PISD Students, Staff, and Parents:

I hope your school year is off to a good start and that your First Six Weeks grades turned out the way you wanted. I also hope that you are getting to enjoy some of our cooler weather as we head into the fall season.

Palestine ISD has made the decision to extend our Home Learning Fridays for several more weeks. Please see the schedule below for the specifics:

Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup> – All Students Attend School  
Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> – All Students Home Learn  
Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> – All Students Home Learn  
Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> – All Students Home Learn  
Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup> – All Students Home Learn  
Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup> – All Students Home Learn  
Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup> – All Students Attend School

Our junior high and high school teachers who are having to teach both in-person and home learners still need the time on Fridays to work with those students, to prepare for the following week, and to have time to grade the assignments of the 250+ students they have in the Home Learning Program. It is the district's hope and sincere belief that by Thanksgiving the JH/HS campuses will be able to manage all the added responsibilities that Covid-19 has placed on their classes/programs. If so, we can suspend the need for further home learning on Fridays.

On the above mentioned home learning days (in red), the district will be moving away from the exclusive use of digital/electronic learning. Students will continue to log-in to their device each morning (for attendance), complete a brief online assignment, and then spend the rest of their learning day on "paper/project" work. We hope this reduction in the amount of online learning time will allow your student to catch-up on paper-based school work and to use other learning modalities than just electronics.

For PK-6<sup>th</sup> grade students...On the above mentioned Home Learning Days (in red), parents may request their student attend school for half day on those days (8 am – 12pm). This request is for **LIMITED SPACE** and begins today (10/7) at 10 am, will be first come-first serve, and will conclude this Friday (10/9) at 12 pm. Breakfast and lunch will be served on those campuses, but the district will **NOT** provide busing on those days.

If you have been keeping track of our local Covid-19 cases lately, you have noticed that we continue to have a very large number of cases in our community and county. You may also know that PISD has had to quarantine quite a few students and staff over the last several weeks. Please know that PISD will continue maintaining our commitment to clean and properly disinfected campuses each day and by spending the time on Friday afternoons and throughout the weekend to ensure that campuses are ready to go for students each Monday morning.

Please continue encouraging your student to wear his or her mask when appropriate and to maintain an effective amount of social distancing. When we are confronted with a positive Covid-19 case, the first two questions we ask are: (1) How far apart were the people from each other and for how long, and (2) Were they wearing masks? If those answers aren't satisfactory, the person(s) must go home for 14 days. So, it is very important to follow the rules if students want to remain at school.

I also want to encourage each of us to take care of our overall health as we continue to navigate the Covid-19 situation and as we move into the annual cold and flu season. Eat well, exercise, and get an adequate amount of sleep each night.

Thank you for your continued patience with us, best wishes to you and your family, and if you need anything – feel free to contact your campus principal.

Sincerely,

Jason Marshall  
Superintendent  
Palestine ISD