

PALESTINE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Jason Marshall
Superintendent

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Friday, November 6, 2020 (12 pm)

PISD Students, Staff, and Parents,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you are looking forward to the upcoming holiday season. I also hope that you have been able to get outside recently and enjoy the awesome fall weather.

As we begin the month of November, you may have seen that the majority of schools in our area have cancelled their Home Learning Plan for students. Palestine ISD has maintained our commitment to this plan and would like to continue doing so. Having said that, we need the assistance of all of our home learners in order to continue providing this option.

After reviewing both 1st and 2nd six weeks attendance and academic information, our home learners are attending/logging in to school and performing academically at a much lower rate than our in-person learners. This is not entirely surprising to us as we believe that in-person, teacher-led instruction is by far the most effective way for preK-12 students to learn. However, we did not anticipate the amount of incomplete work by our home learners that we have had so far. This incomplete/unsatisfactory work has led to 76% of our home learners failing one or more classes. And more alarmingly, we did not anticipate the significantly reduced daily attendance percentage (14% less than our in-person learners) that we have had – especially when being counted from home is as easy as it is this year.

Palestine ISD will evaluate the final 2nd six weeks academic data next week and then look closely at the 3rd six weeks Progress Report (December 4th). **If the academic performance of our home learners is not improved, and if the daily attendance/log in percentage of our home learners is not significantly improved by December 4th, we will strongly consider cancelling our Home Learning Plan for the 2nd semester of the 2020-21 school year.** Again, this is **NOT** what we want to do, but if we can't make these two improvements then we will be forced to make a change.

For those home learners who are doing well, congratulations to you, and thank you! Having had my own child in home learning for a part of this semester, I know it can be challenging at times. For those home learners who need to do better, please do that so we can keep this option for everyone.

Go Cats!

Sincerely,

Jason Marshall
Superintendent
Palestine ISD