

PALESTINE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Jason Marshall
Superintendent

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Thursday, March 26th, 2020 (12 pm)

PISD Students, Staff, and Parents,

I hope you have had a nice week so far and that the Home Learning Material distribution was an easy process for you. I want to commend our staff members for working so well this week in preparing the materials and for working ahead of schedule to allow for more flexibility next week. I also want to thank students and parents for completing the Home Learning Survey so quickly last week which enabled our staff members to be efficient in their preparations.

At this time, I want to provide you with a few reminders and updates so that we can continue providing educational and nutrition opportunities for you in a quality manner.

1. In compliance with Governor Abbott's directive, all PISD campuses/facilities will remain closed (including TACE) to everyone except staff members. This closure will last until at least Sunday, April 5th. **Until further notified, however, we fully expect to reopen campuses for normal operation on Monday, April 6th, at regular time.** I want to say thank you to everyone for adhering to this requirement.
2. All UIL activities remain suspended until at least Monday, May 4th.
3. A State of Disaster declaration is still active in Anderson County. Public gatherings of more than 10 people in a confined space, room, or area are prohibited.
4. **Students are required to submit their first round of digital lessons electronically or to return their paper packets by tomorrow (Friday, 3/27) at 3 pm.** The exchange of paper packets will be handled carefully, and all paper packets will be isolated in excess of 24 hours in compliance with guidance from the Texas Education Agency.
5. Students will receive their second round of lessons tomorrow. For students who are receiving paper packets, you can pick these up at the meal distribution location from 9-11 am, by school bus route, or at your student's campus in the newspaper stands 24 hours/day. **These lessons will not be due until Monday, April 6th.**
6. We will continue distributing meals at the HS campus and by school bus each morning through next Friday, April 3rd. Contact our Transportation Department if you have any bus questions.
7. We ask that everyone avoid congregating at pick-up and drop-off locations. Keep in mind that we need to keep six feet (if not ten feet) of distance between us.
8. It is very important that students and parents stay in contact with their teachers and campuses. We want to assist you through this process, and we have to know that students are participating in the learning process in order to not count them absent during this school closure. As a reminder of absences, students will be required to make-up work not submitted during this time and may lose course credit without legitimate, excused absences. **If students and/or parents have any questions about meals or learning packet, call your teacher or principal.**

I also want to let you know that the district is modifying next week's schedule for employees. Due to the efficiencies of preparing our Home Learning Program this week, we are now able to further limit

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employee access to our campuses next week. That is a really good thing as we work to ensure campuses and facilities are as “germ free” as they can be when everyone returns on Monday, April 6th. Each of our employee groups will continue performing their duties as I listed last week, but teachers will work from home with the exception of needing telephone access for student/parent communication. Teachers will be able to use the telephone in their classroom for student/parent phone calls at previously designated times. Campus Counselors and Nurses will have access to their telephones/voicemail and will field/return phone calls from students and parents as necessary. Campus Special Education staff will continue communicating with students and parents in order to meet the needs of their students. And, Campus Support Staff will assist teachers and principals as needed.

Please continue adhering to the CDC guidelines for protecting against the contracting and spreading of the Covid-19 virus. Please take advantage of student meals that the district is offering. And, please-please-please continue SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES!

In closing, nobody knows the decisions that our elected officials are going to make over the next few days and weeks. I read an article this morning stating that Governor Abbott isn't completely satisfied with how seriously Texans are taking the Covid-19 situation. So, it wouldn't surprise me if schools, business, etc shut down for a longer period of time. If we want to get back to normal, we are going to have to take this seriously and get control of it. We need everyone's help.

Sincerely,

Jason Marshall
Superintendent
Palestine ISD