



PORT WASHINGTON Union Free School District

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April 1, 2020

Dear Port Washington Families,

I hope this email finds you well. Please see below for information regarding spring recess, third-quarter grading, and the latest Board of Education meeting.

Spring Recess Changes

As you know, Governor Andrew Cuomo issued an executive order on March 27, 2020 that directed a statewide extended school closure until April 15, 2020. While school districts throughout NYS are closed per Governor Cuomo's executive order, the New York State Education Department has also imposed a series of attendance guidelines that school districts must follow to receive all scheduled state aid. As our district continues to fight for its fair share of state funding, the PWUFSD will be extending its continuity programs for academic instruction, food service and childcare to the week of April 13 through April 17, previously noted as spring recess.

Curriculum Grading

We realize students and parents have had questions and concerns regarding how grading would be approached given the extended period of school closure. After extensive discussions between the district's teachers, administrators and the Board of Education, this is what has been decided for third-quarter grading for Schreiber:

Third-quarter grades will be calculated using two measures. The first measure will be based on student performance prior to school closure on Friday, March 13, 2020. A second measure will be determined based on work students completed remotely between March 13 - April 2 (the end of Quarter 3). Any work completed remotely during the March 13 - April 2 period will be considered in deciding a student's third-quarter grade **only if** that performance would benefit the final grade for that student. In other words, if a student's performance during the period prior to March 13 was of a higher quality than that during the March 13 - April 2 period, the prior grade will be used for that student's final third-quarter grade. If the student's performance during March 13 - April 2 was of a higher quality than that from the period prior to March 13, that work performance will then be considered in raising that student's final grade for the quarter. Bottom line, work during these initial two weeks of remote learning will not negatively impact a student's third-quarter grade. Further correspondence for grades K - 8 will be sent by the end of the week.

March 31 BOE Meeting

For those who participated in our Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, March 31, 2020, thank you for your input and feedback. As you might imagine, there were an overwhelming number of questions that were asked during the public comment session towards the end of the meeting. As we began reviewing each question with the intention to answer each as soon as possible, we realized, in order to provide comprehensive answers, we needed to gather information from numerous administrators and other district staff to ensure accuracy. Our goal is to address all of the major questions by early next week. In the interim, we realize a large amount of those questions were answered during the meeting which can be reviewed on the district's website at <https://youtu.be/TmCzwsTksVs>.

The nature of this global health care crisis requires us to be flexible and patient. As a district, we appreciate and are grateful for your understanding.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Hynes, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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