

# PITTSGROVE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

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April 24, 2020

Dear Pittsgrove Parents/Guardians:

On behalf of the entire Pittsgrove Family, I would like to thank you for your continued support and patience during this challenging time for all of us. ***School closures have been extended until at least May 15th.***

On March 30, 2020, our school district officially entered into its E-Learning Plan for teaching and learning. Each week the District educators reflect on this plan and work to make adjusts. ***This outreach is being made to revisit, refine, and reinforce our E-Learning plans***, which outlined roles, responsibilities, and expectations for schooling in this remote environment. For the full original E-Learning plans for each school, please visit our website ([www.pittsgrove.net](http://www.pittsgrove.net)). At this time, we would like to highlight key areas of the E-Learning plan and additions to that plan.

## **E-Learning Plan Updates & Reminders**

### **Teaching and Learning During E-Learning**

Teachers, instructional supervisors/coaches, and administration are making decisions daily and/or weekly about what is taught and the how/why it is taught. We know that we cannot replicate nor keep pace with all of what traditionally is done in a classroom. We also recognize that our middle and high school students are more computer savvy and independent than our elementary students, and there will need to be differences in the depth of content and skill coverage across grade levels. As part of our transition plan back to school, we are noting these differences, course to course and grade to grade, and will address them as we further develop our re-entry plans to school.

### **Instructional Focus**

Teachers are focusing on the most important learning goals and critical skills for the subjects and grade levels they teach. Teachers will continue to communicate schedules of *live* lessons (through Google Meet or Zoom) in their E-Learning platform as well as prepare pre-recorded video lessons for direct instruction. Students are highly encouraged to participate in *live* sessions when they are offered. Teachers will continue to follow-up with students who are not participating in *live* sessions or turning in assigned work. ***We do hope that a reduced, more focused academic load will prompt lower stress and will lead to higher student engagement in learning.***

## **Student Learning Schedule**

**Monday through Thursday:** We will continue our current E-Learning activities for students. Teachers are planning and facilitating instruction during regular school hours. It is the student's responsibility to attend *live* supportive sessions. These are critical to support and advance their learning.

**Friday—*Feel Good Friday*:** Our district is supporting and encouraging remote learning planning and professional development days as well as time to step away from devices to catch up on various tasks for students and teachers. ***No new learning activities will be pushed out to students on Fridays.*** The focus of this day for students will be time to work on projects, assignments, or optional activities that have been provided throughout the week. It is also time for students to step away from their screens if their work is completed, or they are able to meet assignment deadlines. The important note for this day is that no new learning activities will be pushed out to students on this day. The focus of this time for our staff will be to ensure continued alignment of instruction and continuity of instructional experiences for learners. Teachers will be engaged in their continued work to support opportunities to meet remote learning goals for our students.

## **Grading & Assessment of Student Academic Progress**

During this extended school closure, it is important to act in the best interests of children. The District educators are working hard each day to do the best for the students and provide learning in adaptive ways. ***Our focus at this time is teaching, learning, and feedback so that students can continue to progress academically*** as best as possible. We will prioritize flexibility for our families while ensuring our ***students face no educational harm during this extended school closure***; therefore, ***the aim is that student grades are not lowered as a result of remote learning.***

***Students should actively engage in instruction while teachers are exercising flexibility, understanding, and compassion throughout the assessment/grading process.*** Grading for students will be a reasonable, student-centered grading methodology to fairly calculate grades based on work previously completed, and a methodology for including work completed during the COVID-19 Pandemic school closure. Your ongoing support and understanding—as we are partners in learning—are greatly appreciated.

Please click below for the updated information on grading and assessment.

- [E-Learning Plan Update: Grading and Assessment of Student Academic Progress](#)

## **Attendance**

Teachers have been asked to make weekly contact with students utilizing District approved communication methods (i.e. email, Remind, access to Google Classroom/Seesaw, attendance at *live* Zoom or Meet sessions). If a student has not accessed a course throughout the week through their online learning platform and/or email, the teacher, counselor, or building administration will reach out to the student to check-in regarding their participation and/or accessibility to learning opportunities. ***Attendance is being monitored through completion of assignments via the E-Learning platform as well as student participation in online lessons, such as Zoom sessions or Google Meet sessions with teachers or other means of check-ins scheduled by individual teachers.***

### **Access to Teachers**

Teachers will be available by email during regular school hours utilizing district-approved communication methods (i.e. email, Remind, access to Google Classroom/Seesaw, attendance at *live* Zoom or Meet sessions). Emails received during this time will be responded to in a timely manner.

### **Devices (Chromebook)**

We still have devices! If your family or student is in need of a device (chromebook), please email your child's principal. If we can provide you with a device to alleviate the amount of sharing that may be taking place in your home, we are more than willing to do so. Please reach out.

### **Technology Support**

If your student is experiencing technical issues with a school-issued device, please email **[techsupport@pittsgrove.net](mailto:techsupport@pittsgrove.net)**.

We greatly appreciate the support that you have shown from your home. Understandably, this is a great deal of information to digest, but we appreciate your prompt attention to this information. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

We thank you for your partnership and continued support. Together we can beat COVID 19!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Hoopes', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Scott Hoopes  
Superintendent of Schools