

PINE PLAINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am writing to update you on the status of our schools in the Pine Plains Central School District.

This past week we had a major snowstorm, which caused us to use two of our three remaining snow emergency days. New York State will allow us to count any day in which the district is in full remote learning as a day of instruction. For the remainder of the school year, if weather prohibits us from safely transporting students and staff to school, we will go into full remote instruction. Each school will provide specific instruction to parents and students should such an event take place. Meal deliveries on those days will be contingent on the road conditions and announced accordingly.

Our school athletic program is now underway. Varsity and junior varsity basketball are practicing with games to begin next week. Please be reminded that we will observe all regulations of New York State and the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health as well as the Section IX Athletic Council. Spectators are not permitted for any of the indoor sports and will be limited in number once competition moves outside.

As I have previously noted, the district has received rapid COVID test kits from NY State. It is our plan to test our athletes and coaches. While we strongly urge parents to allow their student to be tested, we will respect decisions by parents who choose not to give consent. This testing program is not intended for those exhibiting COVID symptoms. Its purpose is to find students who are not having symptoms but are infected and therefore can possibly spread the disease. It is a safety measure for all involved.

Finally, we continue to look for ways to increase the amount of in-person instruction offered to students. Our biggest roadblock continues to be the requirement for social distancing and the amount of space that requires. We plan to do another review of our classroom and transportation space and how many students we have in-person. We have decided to waive the requirement that families wait 10 weeks to change from full remote to hybrid instruction. Parents who want their student to move to hybrid learning may contact their school office with their request. We ask that you give us one week's notice of any change so that we can make the necessary arrangements.

We appreciate the continued cooperation of our students and parents as we try to provide the best possible education for our children.

Be well and stay safe.

Dr. Martin D. Handler
Superintendent