

# PINE PLAINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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March 18, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am writing to update you on the progress that we are making in planning our upcoming instructional transitions. As a reminder, our plan is to move to in-person learning for all grades on April 5<sup>th</sup> following spring recess.

We sent out a parent survey last week to be completed for **each student** in the household for our district. The information from that survey is necessary for us to plan for transportation needs and seating needs in each classroom. To date we have responses from about 75% of our enrollment. The following is the survey link. If you have not already done so, please complete the survey as soon as possible.

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RETURN\\_IN\\_PERSON](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RETURN_IN_PERSON) After March 23<sup>rd</sup>, hybrid students for whom we have not received a survey will be moved to in-person learning and fully remote students for whom we do not have a response will remain listed as fully remote. If you are having difficulty completing the survey, please contact your student's school office for assistance.

As promised, we will have Zoom meetings for all parents and staff next Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. These remote meetings will take place at 3:30 pm for staff and 7:00 pm for parents. The link to the meetings will be sent the day before.

I have been asked by several parents about Wednesdays remaining as remote learning days. The remote Wednesdays have three purposes. First, the custodial staff is able to do a thorough cleaning of all student and staff areas. This will be even more important, as we are essentially doubling the student furniture that we will be using. Second, we still have a number of students remaining fully remote. There is significant additional planning required to provide live streaming to those students. Finally, the Wednesday afternoons are used by teachers to reach out to students having difficulties, especially the remote students who do not have teacher contact during the week. We will continue to reevaluate the need for those remote Wednesdays.

I feel that as always I must caution that a significant spike in case in Dutchess County could result in the Department of Behavioral and Community Health directing that we return to the full six foot social distancing and as a result hybrid instruction. We are also concerned about positive cases following spring recess that might result in quarantines of staff and students. If we cannot have sufficient staff in a school that school may have to return to remote learning.

Our athletic program is underway with the Fall II season beginning last week. Unfortunately, we do not have a boys' soccer or cross country team, as there was insufficient student interest. Currently, schools in our area are not offering modified sports during Fall II. The good news is that as of now we believe that we will have modified teams in the spring season scheduled to start next month. I remind you, we are required to follow the Section IX rules for spectators. I would note that each Section in the state has somewhat different rules. In our Section there are no spectators allowed for indoor events (volleyball). There are two spectators allowed for each athlete for home games only (football, field hockey, soccer).

Once again, thank you for your continued support and we appreciate your participation in the survey.

Be well and stay safe,

Dr. Martin D. Handler  
Superintendent