
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MEMO

TO: PCCS COMMUNITY
SUBJECT: REMOTE LEARNING UPDATE
DATE: DECEMBER 16, 2020

Dear PCCS Community,

As we approach our last week of school before Winter Break, we say goodbye and good riddance to 2020. The intent of this message is to provide an update for our return to school plans in January.

In Illinois and nationally, COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are increasing at an alarming rate. As I hear these announcements, I am mindful of our PCCS community and those that feel this pandemic intensely; and my thoughts are with all those whose lives have been impacted.

It has been five months since we announced plans for the first trimester, that focused on excellent remote instruction. In November, due to rising cases throughout Lake County we postponed our [Hybrid Learning Phase 4B plan](#) in hopes that the Lake County metrics would favor in person instruction. Unfortunately, that wasn't and still isn't the case.

Through your input, we heard how important it is to make these announcements early. So, today, with clarity, we share our plans for January and the balance of our second trimester, to provide time for families and staff to plan accordingly.

Given the trends in our County and specifically in our [enrollment zip codes](#), we will remain in our Phase 4A Remote Learning potentially through the end of our 2nd Trimester, February 26. As the school is fully prepared for Phase 4B implementation, we will continue to monitor the incoming data and ready to adjust this timeline within 7 days' notice should the Lake County metrics improve to a level where Hybrid Learning can be implemented at PCCS.

This is not an easy decision. The pandemic has impacted everyone differently, and there are some in our community who are more comfortable with returning in-person, while others find comfort staying at home. We will continue to build flexibility into our plan that may enable us to provide small group, socially distant supports for at-risk students. Since the summer, we've worked relentlessly to ensure our PCCS families remain healthy and safe and that commitment will stay at the forefront of our decisions.

Throughout the remainder of our second trimester, our staff will continue to provide excellent remote instruction. I know remote learning has been challenging for some, and there are those who might not feel successful right now, but I am continually impressed by the work of our PCCS family. Our teachers are building lessons that are creative, relevant, and clear – despite all the odds. I'm blown away by the tenacity, resilience, and ingenuity of our students – we've seen students evolve into more independent learners, thinkers, and problem-solvers despite these hardships. We will continue to focus on cultivating these vital life skills in students and reflecting, learning, and improving our model. I am grateful for the leadership and dedication of our educators, students, and families in this trying time and inspired by their efforts every day.

There are more glimmers of hope on the horizon – there is positive news about vaccines, and we are hopeful that there will be federal support delivered to schools soon. As such, we will continue to assess the situation based on the input of public health officials and feedback from our families and staff as we approach decisions for the 3rd trimester.

When this pandemic began, no one knew with certainty how long it would last or the effects it would have on our communities. We were all optimistic that by this point we'd feel safe and things would be back to some sense of normalcy. Instead, we're now in an incredibly dangerous moment, and more than ever we need your help to keep our community safe, so please stay vigilant in implementing the appropriate public health measures to prevent and additional surges. The only way through this pandemic is by working together.

We hope that you enjoy your break and can find some time to relax and rejoice.



Geoff Deigan
Executive Director