

## PURCHASE LINE SCHOOL DISTRICT



### Office of the Superintendent

March 23, 2020

Dear PLSD Families:

I want to thank everyone for their patience and support over the last couple of weeks. There has been much change in our community, state, and country over this time. The response to the COVID-19 pandemic has quickly gone from *washing your hands and don't travel* to *don't leave your house or gather in groups of more than ten* to *shutting down all non-life sustaining businesses*. The information I receive from state and local authorities is changing just as fast on all topics. These are unprecedented times, and I want to do my best in keeping our community informed. To that end, here are the latest updates as of Monday, March 23, 2020.

- 1. Today (March 23, 2020), the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has announced that all schools in the commonwealth will remain closed for students until April 9, 2020.** Please note that this closure order could be extended beyond April 9 if it is deemed necessary to save lives and stop the spread of COVID-19.
- 2. State Assessments.** The PSSA, PASA, and Keystone testing, all standardized testing for students in career and technical education (CTE) programs has been cancelled for the 2019-20 school year. These include exams from the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) and National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS).
- 3. The District will provide meals to our students during this closure.** Please see the schedule and distribution points on our COVID-19 update page. We will continue to distribute as planned, as long as our employees can remain safe.
- 4. Continuity of Education Plan:** The difficulty of developing such a plan is that we are required to make sure whatever new instruction we provide is accessible by all of our students (Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education - PDE). Our District has many families that do not have internet access in their homes, and many of our students have special needs that require services and support that cannot be provided through an online format or paper packets. I have tasked our administrative team with exploring every possibility and finding a means to continue education now that the closure is extended. We are hoping to receive better clarity from PDE this week that will enable us to have such a plan.
- 5. Educational Resources:** We have developed a list of resources to provide enrichment opportunities, reinforce prior learning, and provide a springboard for other independent learning activities that support the academic and emotional wellbeing of our students. We will be posting that in the very near future for families to access. We will send out an alert when this is posted.

Our number one priority is the safety and security of our students and staff. We also emphasize that family always comes first, especially in the midst of these challenging and turbulent times. Please know that we are here to support you and will do whatever we can to meet the needs of our community at this time. Please be safe and take care. Sincerely,

Shawn L Ford

Superintendent of Schools