

**Dr. John E. Pallone, J.D.**  
*Superintendent – extension 1161*  
jepallone@nkasd.com

**Audrey Sleight**  
*Board Secretary – extension 1064*  
asleigh@nkasd.com

**New Kensington-Arnold School District**  
707 Stevenson Boulevard  
New Kensington, PA 15068  
Telephone: 724-335-4401  
Fax: 724-994-1213  
<http://www.nkasd.com>

**Jon W. Banko**  
*Assistant Superintendent*  
jbanko@nkasd.com

**Jeffrey S. McVey**  
*Director of Administrative Services*  
jmcvey@nkasd.com

March 13, 2020

Dear N.K.A.S.D. Parents and Guardians:

As we strive to keep our School Community informed during this ongoing National Outbreak, this communication is an update of information relative to the New Kensington Arnold School District for all students, families and employees, grades Pre-K through 12.

Our students and staff have been terrific during these unknown times and have been making every effort among themselves to exercise common sense and personal hygiene, including limited physical contact and regular hand washing. Even though circumstances change unexpectedly by the hour, the District has been taking every reasonable step necessary to provide a safe and secure learning environment for our students and staff.

Today, at 3:00 p.m., Governor Tom Wolf ordered **ALL SCHOOLS CLOSED** for a two (2) week period effective Monday, March 16, 2020, including closure of all school related activities. Given the Governor's directive, **ALL SCHOOLS IN THE NEW KENSINGTON ARNOLD SCHOOL DISTRICT ARE CLOSED** and all school related activities have been canceled, including team practices and/or clinics, games and/or matches, field trips, concerts & practices, musical/play performances & rehearsals, club meetings & activities, and travel.

Beginning Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, our students will have NO SCHOOL until further notice from the District. District Administrative Staff is working to finalize the District Plan that has been an ongoing development for the past several weeks to ensure that the District can provide Instructional Activity to our students in the event of a prolonged school closure resulting from the Coronavirus (COVID-19). It is the District's intent to have educational and instructional materials available to students, both electronically and hard copy printed packets. Stay tuned for more information on this schoolwork strategy and please check the Skyward Message Center for additional and updated information.

In order to receive this information from your child's teacher, you must either access your Skyward Parent Account or provide the district with a reliable e-mail address. It would be best if you did both. To receive Skyward access information or to update your e-mail address, please contact your child's teacher or Mr. Banko, via e-mail at [jbanko@nkasd.com](mailto:jbanko@nkasd.com) and include the word "Skyward" in the subject line.

Beginning Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, a more restrictive protocol will also be implemented for visitors coming into District Facilities. For the next several weeks, the District is requesting your cooperation to avoid visiting our facilities unless absolutely necessary and by appointment only. The District is also requesting that all families and vendors work with us to conduct meetings via phone or tele-conference rather than face to face unless necessary.

The District is also requesting that all Families cooperate with us and provide the District with any information relative to Personal Family Travel and/or known exposure to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) so that the District can work with you and our partners at the Health Department to make the most informed decisions possible to reduce the risk of exposure to District Students, Families and Staff.

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Additionally, District Administrative Staff is working to finalize the District Plan to deliver Student Meals during the District School Closure Period resulting from the Coronavirus (COVID-19). It is the District's intention to begin providing meals to students as soon as Wednesday and will release necessary information including delivery times and locations as soon as possible. Stay tuned for more information on Delivery of Student Meals and please check the Skyward Message Center for additional and updated information.

While all scheduled school related activities have been canceled or postponed, special circumstances for reconsideration may be considered and evaluated on a very limited case by case basis. Circumstances out of the District's control, including cancellations by destinations or hosts, as well as any decision by the District should be considered effective immediately and through the end of the school year. Given Governor Wolf's suggestion on suspending gatherings of 250 people or more, any and all School Events and Activities are canceled and/or postponed until further notice.

While currently there is no specific antiviral treatment for the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Center for Disease Control has recommended a number of simple daily precautions that everyone should take to help prevent the spread of illnesses, including but not limited to the following:

1. Avoid close contact with people who are ill;
2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands;
3. Wash your hands often with soap & water for at least 20 seconds. If soap & water is not available, use an Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer;
4. Cover your cough/sneeze with a tissue or the crook of your arm, and then promptly wash your hands or use hand sanitizer;
5. Get plenty of rest/sleep;
6. Clean and Disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using regular household cleaning spray or wipes;
7. Avoid large groups or mass gatherings of 250 people or more; and
8. If you are ill, stay home – especially if you have a fever, do not return until 24 hours after the fever has expired without the use of fever reducing medication.

Given the rapidly evolving nature of these present circumstances, everyone needs to prepare for any number of unknown contingencies, including a prolonged school closure. The District wants to reassure you that every effort is being made to protect the health and safety of the Students and Staff of the New Kensington Arnold School District. For your convenience, the District has provided the LINKS below with additional facts and prevention measures.

The Administrative Staff and Board of School Directors understand that these are challenging times, but Valley Vikings are strong & robust and are ready, willing and able to take on these challenges without fail. Your understanding and cooperation during these times shall be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

*John E. Pallone*

John E. Pallone  
Superintendent

LINKS:

Centers for Disease Control – Coronavirus Fact Sheet:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/share-facts-h.pdf>

Centers for Disease Control – Stopping the Spread of Germs:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/stop-the-spread-of-germs.pdf>

Governor Wolf’s Press Release:

<https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/>