

Governor Carney has asked that all Delaware Public Schools close from Monday, March 16, 2020 through Friday, March 27. (At this time, we expect schools and offices to reopen on Monday, March 30.)

We are well aware that the decision will create hardship for families, schools, employers and childcare providers. President Trump has declared a national state of emergency – and health experts from around the globe agree that extraordinary measures are needed to slow the progression of the disease.

We are acting quickly to provide as much time as possible for family planning.

This is a fluid situation and that means we may not be able to answer all your questions at this time but we want to help and be as responsive as possible. Please always feel free to reach out to Denise Stouffer, Head of School at denise.stouffer@pca.k12.de.us or 1-302-653-6276 extension 1005 should you have any questions. Denise Stouffer, Head of School, as well as the facilities crew will be working over the next two weeks to ensure our classrooms are deep cleaned and sanitized.

Questions: You're emails help others by allowing us to share the information you need. Please see the answers below to some of the common questions we are receiving.

- 1. Will we have to make up the days?** The Governor has requested that we make up missed time. We have four of the five built in snow days that we will be using against this missed time. This leaves us with only five days to make-up. We will be asking the Board to consider several new school days and possible ways to make up instructional minutes at our next meeting. We will seek feedback on these dates from our stakeholders. We will also seek guidance from the Delaware Department of Education regarding "waiver" options, and would only add days to the end of the school year as a last resort.
- 2. Will work be sent home while school is closed?** Yes. PCA will be funneling work through your child's homeroom teacher. We will provide one full Instructional day and additional practice activities. We are utilizing our online learning platforms that your child is already familiar with and incorporating activities from your child's teacher to help your child continue their learning path. We will have a plan in place for future learning opportunities should schools be closed beyond two weeks.
- 3. What are office hours for staff like?** A schedule of office hours for staff has been uploaded to the school website www.PCASaints.org

4. **Is there a chance that we could be out longer than two weeks?** There's always that possibility, but my hope is that this mandatory shutdown will help slow the spread of the disease and allow us to get back to business as soon as possible. The PCA curriculum team and your child's teacher are working hard to make sure that we have a plan in place that will sustain your child's educational journey. We are remembering our focus on the whole child as we analyze our options. We anticipate learning lessons from the next week and adjusting in order to have the plan available to parents by Thursday, March 26.

5. **What will happen with regard to the 3rd Marking Period? Will it be adjusted?** We will make adjustments in the same manner we have done in the past, when snow days had a similar effect on the 3rd Marking Period.

6. **What will you do about keeping us informed about the spread COVID-19 virus?** We will continue to reach out to you about any potential cases where there is direct or indirect contact with COVID-19 as we are informed. Please email denise.stouffer@pca.k12.de.us if you are not getting the community emails. Here is the number to the CDC as well. This is what is being given to patients who have come through the ER and have concerns about COVID 19. 866 - 408 – 1899.

7. **How do we log into Moby and DreamBox?** Directions have been uploaded to the school website—teachers also can share this information with you

8. **Will we get our money back for field trips?** Money from field trips will be refunded or can be used for another trip

9. **How do I sign up for the Delaware Notification System?**
<http://denotificationservices.bbcportal.com/>

10. What if I do not have access to internet to participate in the virtual day?

Comcast and Spectrum have offered free wifi for students – a parent has shared the following site for more information:

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/fortune.com/2020/03/14/free-public-wifi-coronavirus/amp/>

11. How will I get my student's work? Homeroom teachers are coordinating this.

They will be reaching out this week through their normal communication and setting up communication with your child. Expect this by the end of the day Thursday. Packets for those unable to go virtual will be mailed.

12. I haven't heard from my child's homeroom teacher, what should I do? We

were already out of school when the Governor made the call, which has made this more challenging on all of us. PCA teachers have been working from home to put together meaningful work. However, with the additional challenge, it is taking a little bit more time than usual. If you have not heard from your child's teacher by 4:00 PM on Thursday, 3/19/2020, please reach out to them. It's possible that they have an incorrect email address.

13. How much work should I expect? At this time, one full day's worth of required work is expected to be completed in small bits over the next week. Many teachers are including additional practice suggestions as well.

14. What if my child gets stuck and doesn't understand the material? Teachers are holding "Office Hours" via the platform most appropriate for their grade level. Most are using Zoom, a remote-work meeting platform that has graciously given us free access during this shutdown. We encourage your child to attend. They will see their peers and their teachers. During this time, your child can ask questions if they are having trouble. If your child is unable to attend the live meeting, please email the teacher with your question!

15. What if my child needs accommodations? If you have not heard from a special education teacher by Thursday please reach out to Mrs. Scheers. Patricia.Scheers@pca.k12.de.us. We are attempting to navigate these circumstances with a thought to how to best work with each one of our students.

The decision was an exceedingly difficult one for the Governor to make. His goal, and ours, is to do whatever we can to prevent the spread of the virus and make sure we get

back to business as usual as quickly as possible – while keeping our community healthy.

Sincerely,

Denise Stouffer
Head of School