



PERTH AMBOY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Superintendent of Schools

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Monday, August 31, 2020

Dear Perth Amboy School District Community,

I hope that you and your family are doing well. As you can imagine, the district has been working hard to facilitate a successful start of the school year in the midst of fluctuating guidance from the State. During this time, we have implemented a thorough communication system to maintain the entire school community current on the district's start of the year plan. Ongoing communication has taken place through various means such as, letters, automatic calls, district website, Perth Amboy TV, the District Restart Committee, and the School Based Pandemic Response Teams. For all communications sent to date [please click here](#).

The administrative team has been working diligently to provide information as it relates to students' schedules, staff assignments, and staff professional development. Unfortunately, there is a continual misrepresentation of information sent to our school community from other sources that is often inaccurate. It is discouraging to see such misinformation being disseminated publicly when many of the district's decisions are predicated upon changing and fluctuating information from the State. The district wants to ensure that all communication that goes out is reflective of the most current information and guidance provided by the State. During this sensitive time in our nation, I encourage you to rely on communications that come strictly and solely from Perth Amboy Public School administration and the Board of Education.

As you know, the Perth Amboy School District previously submitted to the NJ Department of Education ("NJDOE"), a comprehensive Hybrid Plan for the 2020-2021 school year as per the mandate of Governor Murphy on June 26, 2020. This plan was approved by the Middlesex County Office of Education. However, on August 12, 2020, Governor Murphy announced that school districts across New Jersey could opt for "All-remote" instruction should they deem it necessary. The Perth Amboy School District has submitted a request to amend the hybrid plan to allow for all remote instruction until November 18, 2020. At this time, we are still waiting for a response to our request. Should the request be denied, the district is ready to revert to the initially approved Hybrid Model.

In anticipation that our request will be approved by the NJDOE, the Office of Curriculum and Instruction has developed remote instruction guidelines and expectations in alignment to The Road Back-Restart and Recovery Plan for Education by the New Jersey Department of Education. The guidelines and expectations also align with the experience and lessons learned from the closing of schools during the months of March-June 2020 in response to the Governor's executive order to halt in-person instruction to protect the State from the spread of COVID-19. Since then, the district has engaged in remote instruction and has identified strengths and areas of focus to best serve students during an all-remote teaching and learning environment. Professional development opportunities for all staff will be offered throughout the year during the scheduled 60 and 75-minute after-school staff meetings. Staff professional development needs will be assessed to provide meaningful and relevant training.

Pending approval from the Middlesex Executive County Superintendent of Schools, the all-remote instructional model will require that all students in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade (PreK-12) participate in remote instruction from home. In other words, students will receive instruction remotely five days a week using a virtual platform such as Google Meet and Google Apps. It is also worth noting that Perth Amboy Public Schools anticipate remaining in this instructional model until November 18, 2020, at which time the situation will be reassessed and next steps identified. The school community will be informed of the modality in which instruction will continue to be delivered in advance of the second marking period.

Please note that staff reassignments and transfers were necessary to fill vacancies and empty classrooms with qualified staff members including but not limited to administrators. All transfers were within appropriate teaching certifications. The administration's effort to save jobs and appropriately assign staff to meet our students' needs are just a few of the many decisions that we are forced to make during this pandemic. I also want to take the opportunity to share with you that as part of the Restart and Recovery Education Plan, several policies are being updated to comply with state guidelines. As soon as the Board of the Education approves these revised policies, they will be shared with the school community.

In response to recent events across the United States that have resurfaced issues of social injustice, inequality and racial discrimination, the Perth Amboy Public School District has also created an Equity and Diversity Committee. This advisory committee has started its work by reviewing policy, programs, initiatives, and our code of conduct to develop an action plan that will address equity and diversity in our schools throughout the 2020-2021 school year and beyond. We encourage all staff to actively communicate with their School Based Pandemic Teams so that they can gather questions, concerns, and suggestions for consideration.

The district has developed guidelines, protocols and procedures to ensure parents / guardians, students and staff understand the district's expectations during all-remote learning. While district staff will be working remotely from home, all staff will follow a regular bell schedule throughout the day and they will be asked to report to the building, as needed. For more detailed information on remote guidelines and expectations, [please click here](#) for a letter from Dr. Vivian Rodriguez, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction. During staff professional development days 1, 2 and 3, all staff will participate in sessions remotely. The administrative team will be coming to the district for an in-person leadership retreat. Also, keep in mind that school principals will be sharing with you all the necessary information, such as Google Classroom links and access codes, on or before September 8, 2020 so that students can join their classes remotely.

Lastly, the District will continue to deliver breakfast and lunch every day Monday through Friday starting September 8, 2020. For more detailed information, [please click here](#) for a letter from Ms. Carmen Southward, Director of Operations.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to your school principal. For principals' contact information, [please click here](#)

Thank you in advance for your continued support and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Dr. David A. Roman 8/31/2020

David A. Roman, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Perth Amboy Public Schools