

## Palmerton Area School District Continuity of Education Plan

<b>School District</b>	Palmerton Area School District
<b>Superintendent</b>	Dr. Alan Lonoconus
<b>Address</b>	680 Fourth St Palmerton, PA 18071
<b>Email/Phone</b>	<a href="mailto:alonoconus@palmerton.org">alonoconus@palmerton.org</a> 610-826-7101 ext. 5011
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.palmerton.org">www.palmerton.org</a>

Goal of Plan
<p>The goal of our online learning platform is to provide educational opportunities to our students that will allow them to continue learning outside the traditional classroom during the mandated COVID-19 school closure. The district is trying to establish a smooth transition from the classroom to an online environment by providing a variety of activities and assignments that best meet the needs of all our students. We intend to use a variety of tools during the closure to ensure that we meet the needs of as many students as possible.</p>

Overview of Plan
<p>March 30<sup>th</sup> through April 1<sup>st</sup> will be Act 80 In-service days. They will be utilized for Professional Development and online lesson preparations. Teachers will complete an online Schoology training and begin developing course content for an April 2<sup>nd</sup> start.</p> <p>Beginning April 2<sup>nd</sup> and continuing through until April 16<sup>th</sup>, teachers will develop lessons focused on reviewing and re-teaching concepts previously taught prior to the closure. These lessons will serve as an opportunity for students and parents to become comfortable with the online learning tools and to ease the return of students into our new learning platform.</p> <p>After April 16<sup>th</sup>, the primary focus will be on Planned Instruction with learning activities that will allow students to continue with the district-developed curriculum.</p>

Expectations for Teaching and Learning
<p>The District is proceeding with a combination of Enrichment and Review followed by Planned Instruction. The goal of Enrichment and Review is to ease the transition back to school and to prepare students to continue with online learning. After the initial two-weeks of review, Planned Instruction will begin and continue for the remainder of the closure. Planned</p>

Instruction is similar to that which occurs in a classroom setting. The goal of Planned Instruction is to provide instruction of new concepts/skills aligned with course curriculum. Teachers will assess learning and in order to receive grades and credit, students must attend regularly and complete the course requirements.

#### Communication Tools and Strategies

- The Palmerton Area School District will continue to provide regular communications with employees, students, parents, school directors, and the community regarding updates about the COVID-19 school closure
- Means for communication during the closure, include but are not limited to, the following:
  - Updates on the PASD website
  - Emails
  - Phone Calls
  - Social Media Posts
  - Schoology, Google Classroom etc.
- PASD maintains a record of all mass communications related to the closure at <https://www.palmerton.org/news/>

#### Access (Devices, Platforms, Handouts)

- PASD reached out to all families in grades K through 12, to determine the availability of internet access and computer devices
- Families who responded that they did not have access to a computer device were issued a district owned Chromebook. Administrators scheduled appointments for Chromebook pick-up on March 27<sup>th</sup> from 8am to 4pm. In addition, Chromebooks were made available for pick-up from 9am to 12pm March 30<sup>th</sup> through April 8<sup>th</sup>. After April 8<sup>th</sup>, requests will be by appointment.
- Families who responded that they did not have internet access were provided with point of contact information for a special program from Blue Ridge Cable that offered free internet access to families in need
- The district has established that educational activities will be delivered through a variety of district platforms which include but are not limited to Schoology, Google Classroom, Google Docs, Google Hangout & Zoom Meetings, etc.
- Students were also provided with school district email addresses
- Professional Staff who needed a computing device were also issued district owned Chromebooks

### Staff General Expectations

#### Teachers

- Teachers will develop lessons to reinforce and maintain concepts previously taught as well as to present new core instructional content
- Participate in virtual meetings such as faculty meetings, IEP, GIEP or 504 meetings, department or grade level meetings, as required by administration
- Prepare assignments for the week and post them in Schoology, Google Classrooms, etc. every Monday
- Provide feedback on student work
- Be available for student and parent questions. During the work week, emails regarding educational opportunities should be answered within 24 hours.
- Teachers will meet with students online via Zoom, Google Hangout etc.
  - Secondary (7-12) at least one per week per section
  - Elementary teachers (K-2) at least three times per week
  - Elementary teachers (3-6) at least once per week per section
  - Elementary Specialists (K-6) once per week by grade level
  - Reading & Math Specialists (K-6) at least one times per week with their assigned students.
- Track student attendance and notify the building principal of students who are not participating in the educational activities being provided

### Student Expectations

#### Students (with parent/guardian support)

- Check their school issued email account regularly for updates and communications from their teachers and administration
- Participate in the online video conferencing sessions scheduled by their teachers to communicate lessons and assignments
- Complete all educational activities within the week they are assigned
- Submit completed assignments to their respective teachers

### Attendance / Accountability

#### Attendance:

Beginning April 2, 2020 students are expected to participate in all education activities and complete the assigned tasks. Attendance will be monitored through a student's completion of weekly assignments and participation in video conferencing sessions. Failure to complete these requirements will result in being marked absent. Teachers will report excessive absenteeism to the building principals.

#### Accountability:

The first 2 weeks (4/2 through 4/16), lessons will be focused on reviewing and re-teaching.

After April 16, 2020 new instruction will begin and assignments may be graded.

Grades K-8:

- Grades will be based on completion of assignments
- Assignments will be graded, and feedback related to specific student performance will be provided
- Fourth Quarter Grades will be Pass/Fail

Grades 9-12:

Our main focus is to provide students with the content necessary to advance to the next level. For example, by the end of an academic course, **a student must be able to demonstrate the competencies required to move from one level to another.** (E.g. Spanish I to Spanish II.)

**The numeric grades earned by the students will be entered into PowerSchool, our student management software system, as usual.** We are on block scheduling at the high school and this creates a challenge for Semester 2 courses. Unlike students on a traditional schedule, students on a Block Schedule complete an entire course in a single semester. As of this report, our students have only completed coursework for one of three grading periods. Currently, we are in marking period number 5, which ends on May 1.

**In Marking Period 6, numeric grades will also be used.** At the end of this grading period, we will make decisions that are best for our students to move forward to enter college, the workplace, or simply continue to the next grade level. We will evaluate each student at the end of the year to make sure they have successfully demonstrated the competencies necessary to advance to the next level. We will consider their effort with the online learning platform as well as the overall situation related to the virus. We have and will continue to consult teachers, staff, and college admission offices to strive to make the best decisions possible for our students.

***Final exams will not be issued this year.*** Though it is an important part of the educational process, it is simply not feasible to monitor things and maintain a sense of fairness for all students. When we return for the next school year, final exams will return to the Palmerton Area Senior High School.

### Good Faith Efforts for Access and Equity for All Students

Palmerton Area School District is committed to providing a good faith effort to meet the unique needs of all our students. Some of the measures taken to ensure a good faith effort include but are not limited to providing Chromebooks and guidance for gaining internet access, scheduling regular device pick-ups times, offering tech support, and issuing PASD email accounts to all students. Educational activities will also be delivered through a variety of district platforms such as Schoology, Google Classroom, Class Dojo, Google Hangout & Zoom Meetings, etc. In addition to the online learning activities, special education and academic support teachers will be providing small-group instruction to address students' learning needs.

The district consistently reviews student needs based upon feedback received through personal communications with families and reserves the right to modify the COE plan as necessary to best serve the students and families of our district.

### Special Education Supports

District staff, in a good faith effort, will provide appropriate and reasonable learning activities, which will include modifications and accommodations specific to students' individualized goals and plans. Special education teachers will work with students and families to provide access to all educational materials while considering student-specific needs. They will also collaborate with other staff to develop appropriate plans for students. Frequent communication between school district staff and families will be maintained as well as documented.

IEP meetings will occur in accordance with federal timelines via video or telephone conferencing

### EL Supports

English Language Development Program will provide appropriate and reasonable virtual services and accommodations, with essential content being prioritized. Students will have equal access to their general education teachers and their EL teachers. EL teachers will provide office hours and have regular contact with students and families regarding their child's programming. Language supports, including translation and interpretation services, will be offered in similar ways during the virtual model.

### Gifted Education

For students identified as Mentally Gifted under 22 Pa. Code § 16.32, this plan will include a continuity of specially designed instruction that is reasonable, flexible, accessible, and appropriate. This specially designed instruction will be provided in subjects for which the child participates in the general curriculum as outlined in his or her current GIEP to the maximum extent possible under the limitations and circumstances of the school closure due to a national health emergency.

GIEP meetings will occur in accordance with federal timelines via video or telephone

conferencing

### Building/Grade Level Contacts

Parkside Education Center: Ms. Mary Brumbach, Principal [mbrumbach@palmerton.org](mailto:mbrumbach@palmerton.org)  
S.S. Palmer Elementary: Ms. Mary Brumbach, Principal [mbrumbach@palmerton.org](mailto:mbrumbach@palmerton.org)  
Towamensing Elementary: Ms. Christine Steigerwalt, Principal [csteigerwalt@palmerton.org](mailto:csteigerwalt@palmerton.org)  
Palmerton Area Junior High School: Mr Richard DeSocio, Principal [rdesocio@palmerton.org](mailto:rdesocio@palmerton.org)  
Palmerton Area Senior High School: Mrs. Paula Husar, Principal [phusar@palmerton.org](mailto:phusar@palmerton.org)  
Director of Special Education; Mrs. Suzanne Rentschler [srentschler@palmerton.org](mailto:srentschler@palmerton.org)  
Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Technology: Mr. Dan Heaney [dheaney@palmerton.org](mailto:dheaney@palmerton.org)  
Superintendent: Dr. Alan Lonoconus [alonoconus@palmerton.org](mailto:alonoconus@palmerton.org)

### Resource Links

Palmerton Area School District Website: [www.palmerton.org](http://www.palmerton.org)

#### Enrichment and Review

Wonders Connect Ed: <https://connected.mcgraw-hill.com/connected/login.do>

ThinkCentral: <https://www-k6.thinkcentral.com/ePC/start.do>

Study Island: <https://www.studyisland.com/>

Reading Eggs: <https://readingeggs.com/>

iXL: <https://www.ixl.com/>

MathXL: [https://www.mathxlforschool.com/home\\_school.htm](https://www.mathxlforschool.com/home_school.htm)

USATestPrep: <https://www.usatestprep.com/member-login>

#### Planned Instruction

Schoology: [www.schoology.com](http://www.schoology.com)

Google Classrooms: <https://classroom.google.com/>

ClassDojo: <https://www.classdojo.com/>

Zoom: <https://us04web.zoom.us/>

EdPuzzle: <https://edpuzzle.com/>

iXL: <https://www.ixl.com/>

MathXL: [https://www.mathxlforschool.com/home\\_school.htm](https://www.mathxlforschool.com/home_school.htm)

USATestPrep: <https://www.usatestprep.com/member-login>

#### COVID-19 Resources

PA Dept. of Health: <https://www.media.pa.gov/Pages/Health.aspx>

CDC - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

