



Pablo Muñoz
Superintendent of Schools

June 12, 2020

Dear Students, Parents, and Staff:

I am writing to provide you with important information regarding the end of the school year. As you know from previous correspondence, Governor Murphy announced that all New Jersey schools would be closed through the completion of the 2019-2020 school year. Students, parents, and staff with any questions should contact their child's teacher or school principal.

Home-based Instruction

The last day of home-based instruction is Wednesday, June 24, 2020. One-session days are scheduled for students and EAP staff on Monday, June 22; Tuesday, June 23; and Wednesday, June 24, 2020. Pre-K through grade 11 students and grade 12 students not graduating will not be required to return textbooks, other instructional materials, and Chromebooks until September 2020. Students who are transferring out of district must schedule a time with their principal to return instructional materials, textbooks, and technology; and to obtain a transfer card. Students must return all Passaic Public Schools property, or reimburse the district for lost items, in order to receive their transfer cards. School principals will begin to contact families and school staff on Tuesday, June 16, 2020, regarding the schedule for students and staff to pick up their personal items. Marking Period 4 report cards can be accessed through PowerSchool Parent Portal. For families that cannot access report cards through PowerSchool Parent Portal, classroom teachers will provide families with student report cards.

Graduating High School Seniors

On May 27, 2020, the New Jersey Department of Education issued *COVID-19 Update: New Jersey Commencement Ceremonies*. This guidance document states that modified in-person outdoor graduation ceremonies may take place on or after July 6, 2020. Additional guidance provided by the NJ Department of Education states that, "These ceremonies must meet the relevant capacity limitation on in-person gatherings in place at the time of the ceremony. Depending on the social distancing requirements in place at the time of the ceremony, varying restrictions will apply."

In order to provide graduating seniors with an opportunity to participate in a ceremony with their peers, Passaic High School, Passaic Preparatory Academy, and the Passaic Academy for Science

and Engineering will each have a virtual graduation ceremony. In addition, the high schools will provide a summer opportunity for graduating seniors, dressed in their caps and gowns, and their families to enter Boverini Stadium and take pictures on a decorated graduation stage. This modified in-person outdoor graduation ceremony will be scheduled so that “the relevant capacity limitation for in-person gatherings” is followed. Please be advised that the terms and conditions of the modified in-person outdoor graduation ceremony are subject to revision and change based on Governor Murphy’s Executive Orders, federal or state law, NJ Department of Education rules, Passaic Board of Education policies, local health official’s directives, or other local authorities’ mandates.

Graduating seniors will receive communication from their principals regarding the returning of instructional materials, textbooks, and Chromebooks; obtaining their yearbooks, diplomas, and caps and gowns; and scheduling their modified in-person outdoor graduation ceremony.

The three virtual graduation ceremonies will be posted at 7 pm, on Wednesday, June 24, 2020, on the district website at www.passaicschools.org

Awards for High School Students

The National Honor Society virtual event will be posted at 7 pm, on Thursday, June 18, 2020, at www.passaicschools.org

The athletic awards virtual event will be posted at 7 pm, on Friday, June 19, 2020, at www.passaicschools.org

The academic awards and scholarships virtual event will be posted at 7 pm, on Tuesday, June 23, 2020, at www.passaicschools.org

Ceremonies for Pre-K, Kindergarten, and Grade 8 Students

Schedules for Pre-K and Kindergarten virtual classroom ceremonies will be communicated by the principal to classroom families. These virtual events will not be recorded and posted to the district website.

Grade 8 moving-up virtual ceremonies for each school will be posted at 7 pm, on Monday, June 22, 2020, at www.passaicschools.org

Summer Programming

The Passaic Public Schools “Jump into Summer” programs online application is now available at www.passaicschools.org

Students in grades K-8 who are registered by their principals under the promotion and retention requirements do not have to fill out the online application. Students in grades K-8 who are

interested in enrichment programming, academic support in math and language arts, or both should complete the online application. All students will be contacted regarding a schedule to pick up instructional materials and if needed, technology, prior to July 1, 2020.

All students in grades 9-12 who require credit recovery summer programming will be contacted by their school administration for registration. High school students who believe they need credit recovery, and have not been contacted by a school administrator, should contact their guidance counselor or school principal immediately.

Food Distribution

Food distribution will continue for both Passaic public and nonpublic school students throughout the summer. Food resource centers will be open on Mondays and Thursdays, from 8:00 am through 12:00 pm. Any student, regardless of participation in summer programming, is permitted to collect seven days of breakfast and lunch at one of our resource centers. The food resource centers are located at Schools 3, 6, 8, 10, 19, 21, Passaic High School, and Yeshiva Ktana (kosher meals).

Fall Athletics

At this time, we are planning to start preparation for Fall athletics, pending guidance from the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association. No dates have been established, as of this writing, for summer practices. The Director of Athletics or team coaches will communicate with students interested in Fall athletics once guidance and procedures have been finalized by the State athletic governing body.

Student Registration

Any family that needs to register into or transfer out of the Passaic Public Schools; or change your home address, prior to July 1, should fill out the form contained at the Parent Help Link, at www.passaicschools.org

Procedures for school registration, transfers, and change of home address after July 1 will be posted at www.passaicschools.org

Student Assignment to Schools for the 2020-2021 School Year

All students in grades K-8 will be told if they are promoted or retained at the end of the 2019-2020 school year, or the end of summer school 2020. All students in grades Pre-K through 8 will receive notification from their principals regarding their neighborhood school assignment by mail in August. Students that have applied to the Passaic Gifted and Talented Academy, Passaic Preparatory Academy, and the Passaic Academy for Science and Engineering will be notified of their acceptance status through the email address that was used to apply for acceptance.

PowerSchool Parent Portal Accounts

All parents are encouraged to establish a PowerSchool Parent Portal account at <http://passaicsschools.org/parents/parentportalhelp/>

PowerSchool Parent Portal will allow you to view your child's grades, attendance, and complete important forms online. If you have not already set up a PowerSchool Parent Portal Account, please contact your school principal or parent liaison for assistance.

I wish to acknowledge and thank our entire school community for their incredible efforts, concern for one another, and belief in each other during this difficult time. As students, parents, extended families, and school staff, you exemplify what is great about our community. I wish you a safe and healthy summer and look forward to seeing you during the 2020-2021 school year.

Sincerely,

Pablo Muñoz

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