



November 19, 2021

Dear PPS Families,

I hope all are well. We have decided to change Monday, November 29, to an asynchronous learning day. This means that instead of reporting to school on Monday, November 29, students will log in from home and complete assignments independently. As PPS's interim Superintendent, I firmly believe it is in our students, families, staff, and the community's best interest that I am honest about the challenges we are facing and clear about why decisions are being made.

The decision to change Monday, November 29, from an in-person learning day to a remote asynchronous learning day was made for three reasons:

1. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be prevalent in our day-to-day lives. Like most industries, our District and school districts, locally and nationwide, are grappling with staffing shortages. In PPS, these staffing challenges are exacerbated by absences due to COVID, a limited pool of applicants, and a lack of teaching substitutes.
2. We have received reports that we will have a limited number of bus drivers and, therefore, will be challenged with getting students to school.
3. A day with students and staff working remotely gives our custodial team an extra day to deep clean all of our schools and facilities, inclusive of Electrostatic sprayers, in light of increases in COVID-19 confirmed cases in the region.

Making it an asynchronous learning day permits us to count the day towards the required 182 days of instruction and eliminates the need to extend the school year or remove vacation days from Spring Break. In addition to completing assignments, students will have access to Social-Emotional Learning supports and activities. To be marked present, students must log in at some point during the day to Schoology. As always, if your child experiences difficulty logging in to Microsoft Teams or Clever, please notify your child's teacher. **Our dedicated Food Service staff will be on-hand at each school to provide Grab and Go meal service from 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM.**

Thank you for your support and patience as I work to foster a culture that elevates quality teaching and learning for all students.

At this time of Thanksgiving, I remember American poet, memoirist, and civil rights activist Maya Angelou's words - "Be present in all things and thankful for all things."

I wish your family a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday.

Wayne Walters, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent of Schools

Wayne Walters, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent of Schools

341 S. Bellefield Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

superintendentsoffice@pghschools.org
Phone: 412-529-3600

Parent Hotline:
412-529-HELP (4357)