



Wednesday, December 23, 2020

Dear PPS Families,

As we prepare to close out the year 2020 and take some time to relax and enjoy the winter break, I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on a few items and share a [video message](#).

Microsoft Teams Chat Feature will be Disabled over Winter Break.

The chat feature in Microsoft Teams will be disabled from Thursday, December 24, 2020, to Sunday, January 3, 2021. Disabling the chat feature will help keep all students safe by reducing the possibility of unsupervised activities occurring among students.

When will In-Person Instruction Resume?

All students will continue learning remotely upon their return from the winter break on Monday, January 4, 2021. After the New Year, the Board of Directors and I will finalize plans to phase students back to in-person instruction. Based on concerns about COVID-19 positivity rates increasing after the holidays due to travel and in-person gatherings, we do not anticipate staff returning to buildings any sooner than the week of January 18, 2021, and students will not return before the second semester, which starts on January 27, 2021

Will Grab and Go Locations be Open over Winter Break?

All District run grab and go locations will be closed from Thursday, December 24 to Friday, January 1. On Tuesday, December 29 from 10 am – noon, Pittsburgh Faison, Pittsburgh Perry High School, and Pittsburgh Classical Academy (Greenway building) will distribute free meal service. Free meal service will also be available on Tuesday, Dec. 29 at Citiparks locations. For a full list of Citiparks locations, please <https://pittsburghpa.gov/citiparks/after-school-feeding-program>. All PPS Grab and Go locations will reopen on Monday, January 4.

I encourage each of you to cherish this time over winter break and use the Center for Disease Control [guidelines on celebrating the winter holidays](#) this year. Although it will be difficult for all of us not to gather over the break with extended family and friends who do not live with us, limiting gatherings can decrease the chances of getting or spreading COVID-19 reducing cases and hospitalizations across our community.

Please be safe and have a wonderful winter break.

Anthony D. Hamlet,
Superintendent of Schools