

**Friday, September 4, 2020**

Dear PPS Parents,

School starts on Tuesday, September 8 for all students PreK-12. If you have not heard from your child's teacher yet, please contact their school immediately and make sure your contact information, including cell phone and email address, is accurate. Teachers and principals will now be able to text you through our engagement tool, Talking Points. Below is all the information you'll need about Talking Points as well as directions on how to access staff.

If your child is in grades 2-12 and your family does not a device for your child or needs to exchange a device, please notify your child's school. We will be sending direct phone communications about dates devices will be distributed and instructions on exchanging a device.

### **How to Find Contact Information for Your Child's School**

To view the directory of schools, visit [www.pghschools.org/elearning](http://www.pghschools.org/elearning).

### **Talking Points – A tool to engage with your child's teacher(s)**

Parents can connect with their child's teacher(s) through Talking Points. To get started, download the free Talking Points Parent Mobile app. You will not need a code. Standard text messaging fees apply. All Talking Points texts from your child's teacher will begin with the area code 415. Parents may unsubscribe at any time by texting GOODBYE. If your child's school is not listed, please contact the school. For more information, visit [www.pghschools.org/talkingpoints](http://www.pghschools.org/talkingpoints)

### **Need a Desk? Visit Knoxville School or Fort Pitt School On Tuesday, September 8**

Student desks will be available for pickup on Tuesday, September 8 from 12:00 – 2:30 PM at two locations:

- Knoxville Elementary School: 90 Georgia Avenue – 15210
- Fort Pitt Elementary School: 5101 Hillcrest St – 15224

Desks supplies are limited and will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

### **E-Learning/Schoology Resources for Students and Parents**

Please see the links below for Schoology resources for students and parents. All the instructional videos and guides can be found at [www.pghschools.org/elearning](http://www.pghschools.org/elearning).

- Student Schoology <https://vimeo.com/452241458>
- Parent Schoology <https://vimeo.com/451309173>

### **Computer Distribution**

If your child is in grades 2-12 and your family does not have a device for your child or needs to exchange it, please notify your child's school immediately. We will be sending direct phone communications about dates devices will be distributed and instructions on exchanging a device.

### **Internet Access through Comcast Internet Essentials**

Comcast is offering free internet access now through July 2021 to PPS families that are in need and meet the eligibility criteria. Families that need access to the internet are encouraged to call our support line at 412-529-HELP or submit a ticket through Let's Talk at [www.pghschools.org/letstalk](http://www.pghschools.org/letstalk).

### **Grab and Go Meals for Students and Families**

Both breakfast and lunch Grab and Go meals will be available for parents and/or students to pick up at 27 schools Mondays thru Fridays between 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM, and then again, from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Parents or students may pick-up both breakfast and lunch during any time slot. Grab and Go sites will be closed for Labor Day (September 7) and Yom Kippur (September 28). For a list of all locations and menus, visit [www.pghschools.org/grabandgo](http://www.pghschools.org/grabandgo). If your family has special food needs, please contact the Director of Food Services, Curtistine Walker at [cwalker2@pghschools.org](mailto:cwalker2@pghschools.org).

### **Parent Up: Virtual Empowering Parent Series Starting September 14**

Parent Up, a skill-building series for parents created by Every Child Inc and hosted by regional experts premieres September 14 at 6:00 PM. To register for the premier 90-minute workshop titled "Teens, Tweens & Quarantines," visit [www.everychildinc.org/parentup](http://www.everychildinc.org/parentup).

### **Upcoming Board Meetings**

The schedule of upcoming Board meetings is below. To view each meeting, visit our website at [www.pghschools.org](http://www.pghschools.org).

- Wednesday, September 16 at 4:00 PM – Agenda Review Meeting
- Monday, September 21 at 6:00 PM – Public Hearing
- Wednesday, September 23 at 4:00 PM – Legislative Meeting

We are excited for the first day of school on Tuesday, September 8 and have made every effort to address your child's learning and nutritional needs. Schools distributed instructional materials to students over the past few weeks. If you have not received materials for your child, please review the list of materials online at [www.pghschools.org/elearning](http://www.pghschools.org/elearning) and contact your child's school to see when you can pick up materials. If your child does not have a device at home for the first day, please contact your child's school immediately. Each school has a plan in place to help you, including accessing educational materials through PBS and Discovery Education. Keep in mind, families may use a personal computer, Kindle, Android Tablet, iPad, and even an XBOX gaming system to access E-Learning. Resources for how to access E-Learning tools from the systems mentioned, visit [www.pghschools.org/elearning](http://www.pghschools.org/elearning).

Your partner in education,

Anthony D. Hamlet, Ed. D.  
Superintendent of Schools