

Thursday, September 10, 2020

Dear PPS Parents,

We have almost crossed the finish line of our first week of E-Learning. Thank you! I understand that returning to remote learning is not easy. We are all learning together. Be sure to check in with your child's teacher or school principal if you have questions or concerns. Today's update is full of information to support you and your student(s); please take the time to read it thoroughly.

One resource I want to make sure you are aware of is our **Virtual Calming Room**. Student Services Support Team pulled together this resource to help students and families manage the range of emotions that are common right now. This virtual space is available when students or parents need a break or want to spend some time rejuvenating. It includes tools and strategies for managing feelings and building resiliency. Resources by grade level are available at www.pghschools.org/virtualcalmingroom.

Remote Learning Hubs

To support families during this time, many of the District's approved Out-of-School Time providers have established their program facilities as Remote Learning Hubs. In these locations, students will have the opportunity to engage in remote learning with the assistance of Learning Hub staff. A full list of sites is available at www.pghschools.org/remotelarninghubs.

Calendar Survey – Please Cast your Vote by Tuesday, September 15 at 5 PM

Due to the delay of the first day of school to Tuesday, September 8, the Board will approve three (3) additional instructional days to ensure that the school district meets the Pennsylvania Department of Education's (PDE) requirement of 180-days of student instruction. Please take a few minutes to provide input on the three (3) student-only vacation days you would like to become Independent (Asynchronous) Student Learning Days. The survey will remain open until the evening of Tuesday, September 15 at 5 PM so the Board can view the results at the Agenda Review meeting scheduled on Wednesday, September 16. The Board will vote at its Legislative meeting on Wednesday, September 23. To vote, visit www.pghschools.org/calendarvote.

Device Distribution Moves to Schools for All Grades (PreK-12)

Last weekend and on the first day of school, an additional 1,684 students received devices across the District at the distribution sites. Beginning tomorrow, September 11, all device distributions will be school-based. If your child still doesn't have access to an electronic device, please contact your child's school directly.

Need a Desk? Visit Knoxville School or Fort Pitt School on Monday, September 14

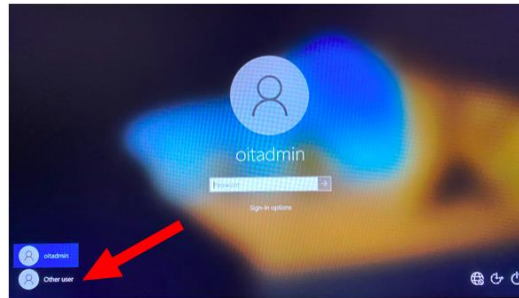
Student desks will be available for pick-up on Monday, September 14 from 12:00 – 2:30 PM at two locations:

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

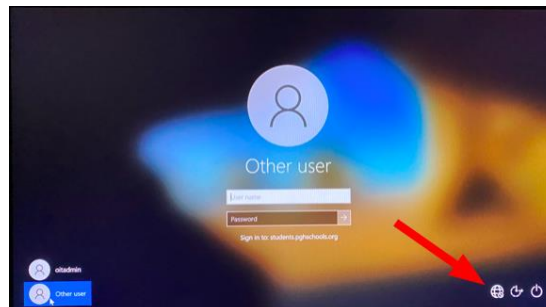
Desks supplies are limited and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Login Instructions and Technical Assistance

1. Once your laptop is turned on and displays a desktop picture with the time and date, hit any key to show the login screen.
2. The login screen may have another account (such as OITADMIN) already entered. Click "Other user" in the lower-left corner of the screen to get a new login screen.



3. At the bottom right corner of the screen, click on the Wi-Fi icon to show a list of available Wi-Fi networks. Select your Wi-Fi network from the list and enter a password, if required.



4. Once Wi-Fi has connected, enter your student email address (@students.pghschools.org) and password in the main login fields. The computer may take several minutes to complete the initial setup.

Technology Support Contacts

- **Students, Families, Staff:** Pittsburgh Public Schools Support Line: (412) 529-4357 from 8 AM – 4 PM, Monday through Friday.
- **Parents of Students additional technology support line option:** University of Pittsburgh Support Line: (412) 624-6007 from 9 AM – 5 PM, Monday through Friday.
- **Submit Let's Talk ticket at www.pghschools.org/letstalk.** Please allow 48 hours for a response. Please do not submit a ticket anonymously if you need help resolving an issue. Please include the full name of the parent/guardian, child's full name, grade level, school, the type of device, and which application that is not working, for example, Microsoft Teams or Schoology.

How to Find Contact Information for Your Child's School

To view the directory of schools, visit www.pghschools.org/elearning

Accessing Clever and SharePoint/Microsoft 365 Directly (without District Website)

Clever can be accessed directly at the link <https://clever.com/in/pittsburghpublic> and Sharepoint/Microsoft 365 tools can be accessed at mypps.sharepoint.com.

Internet Access through Comcast Internet Essentials

Comcast is offering free internet access now through July 2021 to PPS families that are in need. 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.

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 Yom Kippur (September 28). For a list of all locations and menus, visit www.pghschools.org/grabandgo. If your family has special food needs, please contact the Director of Food Services, Curtistine Walker, at 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.

Upcoming Board Meetings

The schedule of upcoming Board meetings is below. To view each session, visit our website at 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

Finalizing our calendar for the school year is an important next step so all families can plan the school year. Please cast your vote for our calendar survey so we can finalize which student-only vacation days we can present to the Board this month as Independent Student E-Learning Days. The link again is www.pghschools.org/calendarvote.

Thank you for your continued support of your children as they learn how to learn in this new virtual school environment. Remember to be kind to yourselves and patient. Our teachers and principals are available to support and help you and your child navigate school over the next nine weeks.

Yours in education,

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