

For Immediate Release

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Pittsburgh Oliver Citywide Academy Remote Instruction Extended to Monday, October 17

PITTSBURGH PA October 8, 2022 – Pittsburgh Oliver Citywide Academy (OCA) will continue remote synchronous instruction for all students until Monday, October 17. The extension is at the request of the school's staff, still addressing the trauma and mental health needs of the entire school community following the severe incident of September 29.

"We need to give our OCA team time to prepare for the return of in-person learning as they balance the need to take care of each other while planning in between providing students the valuable instruction they need," said Superintendent Wayne N. Walters, Ed.D. "We know that if our staff are not at their best, it becomes even more challenging for staff to help our children perform at their best."

As planning continues to support the return of students, Central Office Administrators have collaborated closely with the school's administration to implement immediate strategies to ensure safety when all students return on October 17. The following safety measures are underway after a Building Safety and Security Analysis by District Facilities, School Safety, and OCA Administration this week:

- A revised enrollment process that includes a pre-enrollment meeting to review and request all documentation from previous schools/settings.
- An enhanced adult partnering system for staff.
- An additional security guard was assigned to the building.
- Two-way radios will be provided for all classrooms as an added emergency communication device in addition to the outside phone lines and internal intercom system.
- Separate entrances have been designated for use by staff, students, and visitors to limit the usage of multiple doors.
- Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) training for new staff members not previously trained.
- Intentional planning for restorative practice circles; and
- Augmented counseling and other student support services for when students return.

A virtual meeting was held Thursday evening for families. Staff will use the upcoming Parent/Teacher Conference Day, Friday, October 14, to conduct small group sessions with students and parents. Families have been notified today regarding the extension of remote instruction at the school.

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About Pittsburgh Public Schools

The Pittsburgh Public School District is the largest of 43 school districts in Allegheny County and second largest in Pennsylvania. The District serves 20,350 students in pre-kindergarten through graduation. The Pittsburgh Public Schools offers students a variety of options and opportunities that will help them succeed in school and prepare them for whatever comes next in college, career and life.