



Pulaski County Public Schools

Division Superintendent
Kevin W. Siers, Ed.D.

November 18, 2020

Dear PCPS Parents, Guardians, & Students,

I hope that everyone is doing well during these unprecedented times in our nation's history. Pulaski County Public Schools is extremely proud of what we've been able to accomplish this year. So far we have provided more face-to-face instruction for all of our students than any school division in the New River Valley, issued Chromebooks to every student in grades Pre K-12, and have continued to offer an array of extra and co-curricular student activities. We realize that this would not have been possible without the incredible support from our parents and are thankful to be part of a community that prioritizes keeping some semblance of normalcy in place for its children.

The recent increase in the number of positive Covid cases in Pulaski county caused a large number of PCPS employees to have to enter into quarantine which had a detrimental impact on our ability to sufficiently staff our schools. Unfortunately, this resulted in us having to take a temporary step-back in the amount of face-to-face instruction that we can offer. PCPS will have full virtual instruction from November 23-December 4, 2020 and then return to 50% instruction from December 7, 2020 until at least January 8, 2021. It is our goal to be able to return to 100% attendance on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays as early as possible in 2021. We do anticipate that Wednesdays will remain a virtual learning day for the foreseeable future to ensure that all of the processes for full virtual instruction are maintained in the event that additional shut-downs become necessary.

Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the recently approved PCPS School Closing Codes & Virtual Learning Days. We anticipate that the guidelines described in this document will be used for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. **Asynchronous** virtual instruction, which will be in place from November 23-24, 2020 and any time there is a **Code 1** closing, means that teachers will provide assignments for students to complete independently but will have a set time available during the day for students to contact them with questions or concerns. **Synchronous** virtual instruction, which will be in place from November 30-December 4, 2020 and anytime there is a **Code 2** closing, means that students will log on for real-time interaction with their teachers and classmates. We understand that there might be circumstances that prevent students from participating in synchronous instruction, so there will be an option for students to complete the work independently as all assignments and videos will be made available by 3:30 p.m. each day. (Instructional hours are set to meet requirements from the VA Department of Education.)

Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as we continue to learn how to navigate public education through a pandemic. We understand the incredible burden that frequent changes and partial attendance schedules have placed on our families. The faculty and staff of Pulaski County Public Schools genuinely appreciates the high level of support that we have received thus far. Please feel free to reach out to one of our principals or someone at the School Board office if you have any questions about the closing codes or virtual learning day definitions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kevin W. Siers, Superintendent



Pulaski County Public Schools
School Closing Codes & Virtual Learning Days

Closing Code 0- The Superintendent & Director of Operations will assess conditions throughout the day. All essential personnel for snow removal will be on standby and called in as needed. All other employees will not report. **No Virtual Instruction**

Closing Code 1 or Asynchronous Virtual Days- Essential personnel for snow removal will report at their regular time. All other 11 and 12 month employees and school nurses report by 10:00 am. Offices & school buildings will open at 10:00 am. Any needed changes to these arrival times will be communicated to employees by their immediate supervisors.

Asynchronous Virtual Instructional Day Guidelines-

1. Students should receive by 10:00 a.m. their assignments (for the courses they would have participated in on this day) by e-mail, on Canvas, Google classroom, or another platform that is used in class.
2. Students will work independently on the assignments, submit work if possible, and communicate with teachers whenever they have questions or issues with assignments.
3. Teachers will conduct office hours from 1:00-3:00. (The method for students to contact their teachers should be provided in advance and may include Zoom, Google Meet, GoToMeeting, a conference call, etc.)

Closing Code 2 or Synchronous Virtual Days All eleven and twelve month employees, administrators, teachers, school nurses, and paraprofessionals report by 8:00 a.m. Synchronous virtual Instructional Day (students log on and participate in real-time instructional activities) from 10:00-3:00. **This will be a day for synchronous or real-time instruction with teachers.**

Synchronous Schedule for Elementary

1. Students log into each class to interact with the teacher and classmates in a real-time learning experience. Here is the schedule for each level:

Elementary Schools

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Times</u>
Reading	10:00-11:15
Math	11:15-12:30
Lunch	12:30-1:00
Social Studies	1:00-1:45
Science	1:45-2:30

-The Pre-K schedule will be adjusted by each teacher to reflect ½ of the instructional time allotted for other elementary grades.



Pulaski County Middle School

6 th Grade		
Upstairs Team	Downstairs Team	Times
3 rd (M,Th) & 8 th (Tu, F)	1 st (M,Tu) & 8 th (Tu, F)	10:00-11:30
Lunch	Lunch	11:30-12:00
2 nd (M,Th) & 5 th (Tu,F)	2 nd (M,Th) & 5 th (Tu,F)	12:00-1:30
6 th (M,Th) & 7 th (Tu,F)	6 th (M,Th) & 7 th (Tu,F)	1:30-3:00
7 th Grade		
Upstairs Team	Downstairs Team	Times
1 st (M,Th) & 2 nd (Tu, F)	7 th (M,Tu) & 8 th (Tu, F)	10:00-11:30
Lunch	Lunch	11:30-12:00
3 rd (M,Th) & 4 th (Tu,F)	3 rd (M,Th) & 4 th (Tu,F)	12:00-1:30
6 th (M,Th) & 8 th (Tu,F)	1 st (M,Th) & 2 nd (Tu,F)	1:30-3:00
8 th Grade		
Upstairs Team	Downstairs Team	Times
1 st (M,Th) & 2 nd (Tu, F)	1 st (M,Tu) & 2 nd (Tu, F)	10:00-11:30
Lunch	Lunch	11:30-12:00
4 th (M,Th) & 7 th (Tu,F)	3 rd (M,Th) & 7 th (Tu,F)	12:00-1:30
3 rd (M,Th) & 8 th (Tu,F)	5 th (M,Th) & 8 th (Tu,F)	1:30-3:00

Pulaski County High School

<u>Block</u>	<u>Times</u>
1 st (M,Th)/ 3 rd (Tu,F)	10:00-12:15
Lunch	12:15-12:45
2 nd (M,Th)/ 4 th (Tu,F)	12:45-3:00

2. All classes will be recorded and made available for students to watch after 3:30 p.m. for those who were not able to participate in real time.
3. *It is the responsibility of students/parents to report when there is insufficient internet access at home or any other reason that the student could not participate during the school day so that alternate assignments can be provided. These assignments must be turned in on the first day that schools reopen for face-to-face learning in order for the student to be counted as present on the Code 2/ synchronous virtual days.*

2 Hour Delay-Essential personnel for snow removal report at their regular times. Eleven and twelve month employees report by 9:00 am. All other employees arrive by 10:00 am.