

12/3/20 Update

Due to the significant number of cases of COVID-19 and the large number of individuals being placed in quarantine within our community, the Portage Area School District will remain in a remote learning environment* for students in grades K thru 12 through Wednesday, January 13, 2021. All extra-curricular activities have been placed on hold as well.

*Only those students with IEPs, or those without Internet access at home may attend school. Please contact the building principal for further information.

APCTC vocational students will continue to receive their education remotely.

The administrative staff and board of directors are constantly monitoring this situation and will adjust accordingly as necessary and possible.

Thank you for your understanding and support through these difficult times. -z-

12/2/20 Update

As ordered by PA DOH and PDE, the Portage Area School District has submitted the [*Attestation Ensuring Implementation of Mitigation Efforts*](#) signifying all or some of the students within the school district are currently receiving in-person instruction.

11/23/20 Update

Due to the number of cases of COVID-19 and the large number of individuals being placed in quarantine within our community, the Portage Area School District will transition to a remote learning environment for students in grades K thru 12 beginning Tuesday, November 24th.

APCTC vocational students will receive their education remotely.

Only those students with IEPs, or those without Internet access at home may attend school. Please contact the building principal for further information.

If the situation permits, students will return on Monday, December 7th.

Thank you for your understanding and support through these difficult times.

11/20/20 Update

Wednesday, Nov 25th will remain a regular, half-day of instruction for K-6 students.

11/19/20 Update:

Upcoming change in learning model for the Jr/Sr High School

JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Given the high number of COVID-19 cases showing up in our community AND the large number of students/staff we are having to place in quarantine, our Jr.-Sr. HS will transition to a fully remote learning model starting Monday, Nov 23rd. All extracurricular activities will be on hold until students return on Dec 7th if the situation allows it.

Today, we are doing our best to make sure students in Grades 7-12 have devices using the surplus laptops or whatever we can scrounge up.

To comply with FAPE requirements for our IEP students and meet the needs of our vocational students, we will permit those students to attend school. Also, the few students without internet access at home may come to school as I don't have a solution at this time.

ELEMENTARY

Knowing the issues families will face with an ES building closure, I'm doing my best to keep the doors open although I'm not sure if that will be possible. Staffing is becoming problematic as people test positive or are placed in quarantine. We are stretched about as thin as it gets in covering classes with aides, special teachers, or whoever is available.

The ES staff is preparing packets to send home "just in case." Whether we will do the remote learning day next Wednesday has yet to be determined. While I would like to make it another practice day, I'm still considering what is in our long-term best interests.

I appreciate everyone's concern for our community. Please know I am doing everything possible to keep our students, parents, and community as safe as possible while still providing our students with a quality education.

As a reminder, please keep your child home from school if he/she is feeling ill for any reason. As it relates to COVID-19, the most common symptoms are cough, fever, loss of taste, and shortness of breath. Muscle aches, sore throat, and fatigue are also common. If your child exhibits any of the above-listed symptoms, please consult with your family medical provider immediately.

***In the event the district becomes aware of a positive COVID-19 case within the school community, it may be possible classes transition to a fully remote learning model while contact tracing is conducted. Students identified as close contacts will be required to participate in remote learning during their quarantine period.

We thank you for your understanding and cooperation. -z-

Thank you,
Eric Zelanko, Superintendent
Portage Area School District