

TO: Pioneer Parents & Guardians
FROM: Chuck Grable
DATE: March 19, 2020
RE: COVID-19 Update

We have a few updates to share with you on COVID-19 and our state's response to the spread of the pandemic. At 1:00 PM today, Governor Holcomb held a press conference. During this press conference he shared that **all Indiana school corporations are to remain closed through May 1st, 2020**. The state will re-evaluate it at that time, but he is not overly optimistic that we will return for the end of this school year. **What does that mean for Pioneer and our students?** We will continue the original plan and pattern of alternating between eLearning weeks and closed waiver weeks. Here is the schedule:



Pioneer Regional School Corporation

Pride

Results

Service

Community

Week	Action
March 23 rd – 27 th	Spring Break
March 30 th – April 3 rd	Waiver Week, Closed, NO eLearning
April 6 th – 10 th	eLearning
April 13 th – 17 th	Waiver Week, Closed, NO eLearning
April 20 th – 24 th	eLearning
April 27 th – May 1 st	Waiver Week, Closed, NO eLearning

If we then have to remain closed through the end of the school year, we will continue with this schedule:

Week	Action
May 4 th – 8 th	eLearning
May 11 th – 15 th	Waiver Week, Closed, NO eLearning
May 18 th – 21 st	eLearning & Finals

We all understand that eLearning over extended periods of time is not how we want to approach instruction. However, in these difficult times, we only have two options: eLearning or up to 20 waiver days granted by the Governor. This is why we are alternating between eLearning and waiver days. As you can see from the schedules above, we will be able to get through the school year by following this pattern. A reminder that we DO NOT expect our parents to use their cell phone data plans for eLearning if you do not have WIFI. Our teachers are working diligently to come up with creative alternatives for students that do not have WIFI, especially if we have difficulty getting fresh packets out to students. However, this will require emailing or texting activities to families.

During these required closings, **all school related events and activities are also canceled**, such as athletics, other extracurriculars, school carnival, etc. We understand that this really affects those families with a senior student. We will do everything in our power to hold a commencement and Prom, even if it means delaying them until later in the summer. However, if this pandemic stretches well into the summer, as some predict, this may be out of our hands. The DOE is currently holding weekly update webinars with school districts. Their goal, as well as ours, is to make sure our seniors graduate on time and all of our other students transition to the next grade level. All of the issues surrounding this are currently being discussed at the state level. As we receive updates, we will share them with parents.

On a positive note, the Governor **canceled all state assessments for this school year**. That means that our students will not need to worry about taking IREAD, ILEARN, ISTEP gr. 10, I AM, WIDA, or ISPROUT this year. The state is currently working on plans for students that may need to take the ACT or SAT. Watch for more information in the coming weeks.

Superintendent: Dr. Charles Grable

Yesterday, we emailed each family a letter explaining how you can receive five days of breakfasts and lunches for any children in your household 18 years old or younger at no costs. Along with that letter, you received a link to a form that **MUST** be filled out **by noon tomorrow** to sign up for these meals. You do not have to take advantage of these meals. If you do NOT want them, do not fill out the form. If you do want them, please complete the form by noon tomorrow. **That service will begin on March 30th and continue as long as we are closed.** More details were explained in that letter.

This is a very fluid situation that is changing hourly. We currently do not have a case of COVID-19 in Cass County, but that is just a matter of time. Indiana had its first case on March 1st and today has 56 cases. We are in constant communication with local health officials. This is not a time to panic or hoard food and supplies. However, you do need to practice social distancing and wash your hands as much as possible. That is the only thing that will slow COVID-19's progress. This means that you should not be scheduling play dates or sleep overs for your children. High school students should not be gathering in groups. We fully understand how everyone will get stir-crazy in these situations, but there are things that you can do:

- Get outside and play, exercise, or go for a walk; go to a park but keep your distance from others
- Play family board games
- Enjoy some arts and crafts
- Call or Facetime a friend to see how they're holding up; do a group video chat
- Read to each other
- Cook the family meal together having your children learn to read a recipe and accurately measure the ingredients.

As we get new information, we will continually update families. Please watch your email and text messages during this time period. We **WILL** all get through this together – that's what it means to be a Panther! We greatly appreciate your understanding and flexibility during this difficult time. Please email us if you have any questions.