

Pioneer Regional School Corporation
COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

| Item # | Question | Answer |
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| 1 | Will students return to school for the 2019-2020 school year? | No. Governor Holcomb closed all K-12 schools in Indiana through the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Pursuant to Governor Holcomb's Executive Order 20-16, all K-12 schools in Indiana shall provide instruction via remote learning for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year . Schools shall not conduct in-person instruction for the remainder of the school year, and school buildings shall remain closed except for the purposes described in Executive Orders 20-04, 20-05, 20-08, and as may be described in any future Executive Orders. |
| 2 | Will students have to complete 180 days of school this year? | No. Governor Holcomb waived twenty (20) of the 180 school days for this school year. For the 2019-2020 school year, students will have to complete 160 days of schools . |
| 3 | When will students have to do eLearning to meet these 160 days of school and when is the last student day? UPDATED 4-22-20 | Pioneer is utilizing the following schedule for eLearning and waiver days: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 16-20: eLearning • March 23-27: Spring Break • March 30-April 3: Waiver week & eLearning catch-up • April 6-10: eLearning • April 13-17: Waiver week & eLearning catch-up • April 20-24: eLearning • April 27-May 1: Waiver week & eLearning catch-up • May 4-8: eLearning • May 11-15: Waiver week & eLearning catch-up • May 18-21: eLearning (May 21st will be 160 days of instruction) The last student day will be May 21st. |
| 4 | Does all of the eLearning work have to be completed by the end of that eLearning week? UPDATED 4-22-20 | No. Students may utilize the waiver week that follows the eLearning week to catch up on work from the previous eLearning week. We will also accept work submitted after these two-week periods for full credit. Final eLearning work must be completed and submitted by 3:00 PM on May 21st. |
| 5 | What if we do not have WIFI access at home? | If you do not have WIFI access at home, you a couple options: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request a paper/pencil packet to complete at home. Paper/pencil packets may not exactly match the eLearning work. 2. Complete the work at a family member's house that has WIFI. 3. Students may also access the Jr./Sr. High School's WIFI from any of the parking lots (rear lot by football field, front lot by door #1, or the student lot by door #18). Students must stay in their vehicle while accessing the WIFI at school and respect social distancing. |
| 6 | When can a parent pick up new paper/pencil packets? | New packets may be picked up at door #18 or door #1 at the Jr./Sr. High on Mondays and Wednesdays between 10:00 and 11:00 AM. Students that have meals delivered to them by the bus drivers will also have packets delivered. You child's teacher will communicate with you when new packets are ready to be picked up. |
| 7 | When can parents return completed packets for grading? | Completed packets may be returned at door #18 or door #1 at the Jr./Sr. High on Mondays and Wednesdays between 10:00 and 11:00 AM. Students that have meals delivered to them by the bus drivers may return packets to the driver. Final completed packets must be returned on or before Wednesday, May 20th from 10:00 – 11:00 AM. |
| 8 | When will students see grades for completed work in Harmony? | This will vary from teacher to teacher. Teachers will attempt to provide feedback on graded eLearning work within a week of the assignment being due. Paper/pencil packets will take longer. We have to let the returned assignments set for 78 hours prior to handling then due to concerns over exposure to COVID-19. The teachers also do not have regular access to the buildings due to the Governor's stay at home orders. Therefore, a schedule |

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| | | will be worked out on when teacher may pick up these completed packets. Realistically, students may not receive feedback on these packets for a couple weeks. |
| 9 | How do parents or students contact their teacher or administrator if we have questions? | <p>Currently, the best way is by email. Staff emails are listed on the school building's website. Go to the building's website and click on "menu" at the top of the screen and then click on "staff".</p> <p>On the mobile App, you must first select the school. Then in the drop-down menu (three lines in the top left-hand corner), select "Staff". In the App, you must click on the staff member to view his/her email.</p> |
| 10 | When are teachers available to answer questions? | During eLearning weeks, each teacher conducts "office hours" during the school day (roughly between 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM) where they can be reached by email. Responses may not be immediate due to helping another student or talking to a parent. |
| 11 | Will my high school student earn credit for the course he/she is taking while school is closed? | Yes, as long as the student shows effort in completing the assigned eLearning work or packets and passes the course. |
| 12 | How will grades be determined for students? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades PreK-1: Teachers will provide parents a narrative explaining how the student progressed on grade level standards. Some of the information included will be from third quarter in addition to work they've assigned and seen from students this quarter. • Grades 2-6: Traditional letter grades will be issued for work completed during the fourth nine weeks. The grades from the third and fourth nine weeks will be averaged together to determine the final fourth nine weeks grade. • Grades 7-12: Traditional letter grades will be issued for work completed during this fourth nine weeks. The grades from the third and fourth nine weeks will be averaged together for their final semester grade that goes on the transcripts. <p>If you have a question or concern about an eLearning grade, please contact your child's teacher.</p> |
| 13 | Will my senior be able to graduate at the end of this school year? | <p>According to Governor Holcomb, the State Board of Education, and the Indiana Department of Education (DOE), the state will provide flexibility for school corporations as it relates to students in the 2020 graduation cohort. Under this approved flexibility, a school corporation may issue an Indiana diploma to a student who:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has met all of the course and credit requirements for the specific diploma designation based on a combination of high school credits earned prior to and the courses in which a student was enrolled as of March 19, 2020, when the Governor issued the statewide school closure order; and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This means a senior will get credit for courses they were enrolled in S2; the grade is determined by the school. 2. Meets any virtual or remote learning participation requirements established by the governing body of the local school corporation in response to the statewide school closure order issued by the Governor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This means the senior must continue to log in for attendance and do work. Seniors still may improve their grades during eLearning. 3. The state has also waived the graduation exam and waived requirements for Pathways. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaning, as long as a senior earns their credits they will graduate with the diploma based on the credits achieved. |
| 14 | How is attendance taken during eLearning weeks? | Students are expected to sign in on a Google Form each day for attendance. If a student does not or cannot sign in, but completes the assigned work for that day, the attendance is adjusted. The student is counted as absent if he/she does not sign in and does not complete any work. |

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| 15 | How will the school address gaps in learning due to this situation? | Teachers are documenting the skills and standards that they are teaching this spring. Gaps will be discussed and identified through cross grade level and department meetings. Teachers will then plan to address these gaps through additional instruction and review in the fall. The high school also provides credit recovery opportunities during the school day and outside of the school day. |
| 16 | Will there be Summer School opportunities for students this year? | Yes, some students will be able to attend Summer School; however, at this time we do not know what that will look like for this summer. The guidance from the DOE is to plan for a virtual Summer School at this time. More information will be released concerning this later in the school year. |
| 17 | Will this COVID-19 affect the opening of school in the fall? | We have no way of knowing this at this time. The virus timeline will control school reopening. We will keep families updates as new information is released. |
| 18 | How will this affect the traditional senior activities? | <p>We understand that this is a frustrating and difficult time, especially for our seniors. Pioneer will make every attempt to conduct some of the traditional senior activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Trip – The senior trip has been canceled this year. • Prom – We will hold a Prom later this summer IF the virus timeline allows for it. If the curve flattens and restrictions are lifted, we will hold one later this summer. • Senior Awards Program – We will hold an awards program later this summer IF the virus timeline allows for it. If the curve flattens and restrictions are lifted, we will hold one later this summer. • Top 10 Banquet – This has been canceled, but will be incorporated into the Senior Awards Program. • Graduation Ceremony – We will hold a commencement ceremony later this summer IF the virus timeline allows for it. If the curve flattens and restrictions are lifted, we will hold a traditional one later this summer. If not, we are exploring alternative programs. <p>We will keep families and seniors updated as we get new information.</p> |
| 19 | How will school closings affect spring sports and ECA's? | The IHSAA cancelled all spring sports due to the COVID-19 pandemic and school closings. This also applies to all ECA activities. |
| 20 | Will spring athletes still be able to earn a letter? | Yes. The Athletic Department will be issuing letters to spring athletes. |
| 21 | Can students receive meals from the school during the school closings? | Yes. All families can receive free breakfasts and lunches for any child in the house that is 18 years of age or younger. |
| 22 | Can younger siblings in the house that are not in school yet receive these meals? | Yes. Any child in the house that is 18 years old or younger may receive a free breakfast and lunch. |
| 23 | Are adults eligible for these meals? | Unfortunately, no. Only children 18 years old or younger can receive the free breakfasts and lunches. |
| 24 | How do we sign up for these free meals? | In order to receive the free meals, you need to register for them. You register by calling or emailing Mrs. Shrontz . When you register, you provide the name and age of each child that will receive a meal. Mrs. Shrontz may be reached at (574) 643-3145 x305 or by email at shrontz@pioneer.k12.in.us . Email is the preferred method. |
| 25 | When and how do we receive the meals? | <p>Meals are distributed every Monday and Wednesday between 10:00 – 11:00 AM. You must pick up meals on both days. On Monday, you receive meals for Monday & Tuesday. On Wednesday, you receive meals for Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday.</p> <p>If at all possible, we ask that the parent or designee pick up the meals at door #1 at the Jr./Sr. High on Mondays and Wednesday between 10:00 – 11:00 AM. Once you pull up to door #1, a staff member will place the meals in your trunk or hatch. Do not get out of the vehicle. You do not have to have a child with you to pick up the meals.</p> |

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| | | If you are not able to pick up the meals, our Transportation Department will deliver the meals to your house on Mondays and Wednesdays between 10:00 – 11:00 AM. Someone must be home to receive the meals. |
| 26 | Is it too late to sign up for these meals? | No. If your circumstances change and you want to take advantage of these free meals, contact Mrs. Shrontz (see question #24). |
| 27 | When will my child be able to clean out his/her desk and/or locker? | At this point we do not have an answer for this question. Once the curve has flattened and restrictions are lifted, we will plan for students to return to clean out desks and lockers. Once a plan is in place, we will notify parents via text and/or email. |
| 28 | When and how do I register my Preschool or kindergarten student for next fall? | Due to the current situation with the COVID-19 restrictions, we will have to rely on online registrations for students entering Preschool or Kindergarten next fall. We are targeting mid-May for this online registration. More information will be released in the near future. In the meantime, so that we can get a general head count for those grades, please email Mrs. Shidler your child's name and age if he/she would be entering Preschool or kindergarten next year. Her email is shidlert@pioneer.k12.in.us . If you know a first-time new parent that will have a student in these grades next year that does not have a child currently in school, please share this information with them. |
| 29 | When and how do I register my current grades K-11 student for next fall? | Due to the current situation with the COVID-19 restrictions, we will have to rely on online registrations for students entering grades 1-12 next fall. We are targeting early July for this online registration. More information will be released in the near future. |
| 30 | When and how will student devices be collected at the end of the school year? | Due to the current situation with COVID-19 restrictions, this year we will only collect the devices from our seniors. Students in grades K-11 will keep their devices at home over the summer and bring them back to school on the first student days next fall. This will also provide us with flexibility in case we have to start the 2020-2021 school year with eLearning due to the pandemic. We have not set a date yet to collect senior devices. Once we have a date, we will notify seniors when and how to return the devices. |
| 31 | When will athletic physicals be held for next fall? UPDATED 4-22-20 | Due to the COVID-19 and its demands on the medical profession, all current (2019-2020) IHSAA physical and consent forms on file in the athletic department at Pioneer shall be valid during the upcoming 2020-2021 school year. If you do not have a current one on file, information will be shared at a later date on how to get one. |
| 32 | Will my elementary student be able to purchase a Yearbook for this year? | Yes. The elementary will be ordering a supply of 2019-2020 Yearbooks. Students will be able to purchase one at a later date, most likely when they return in the fall. |
| 33 | What if my child's device breaks during eLearning? | Contact our Technology Director, Mr. Hoover at hooverg@pioneer.k12.in.us and he will schedule a time with you to swap the broken device for a replacement. |
| 34 | Will there be a 6 th Grade Graduation Program? NEW 4-22-19 | The traditional elementary awards/graduation program is canceled due to the school closure and current restrictions. However, the staff is exploring some virtual alternatives. |

Original release date: April 17, 2020
Updated: April 22, 2020

If you have a question concerning one of these answers or have additional questions that are not on this list, please email one of the administrators listed below:

- Dr. Grable: grablec@pioneer.k12.in.us
- Ms. Greene: greeneb@pioneer.k12.in.us
- Mr. Brooke: brookej@pioneer.k12.in.us
- Mrs. Shrontz: shrontzm@pioneer.k12.in.us
- Mr. Bingaman: bingamanj@pioneer.k12.in.us