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Pentwater Public Schools

"Where everybody is somebody"

August 25, 2020

Dear Family and Friends,

I know there are many questions and concerns along with some anxiety regarding the start of this school year. With information changing so rapidly, we have attempted to keep you as up-to-date as possible. On August 14, 2020, I sent out a letter announcing that the District made the decision to open the school year with a Blended/Hybrid Learning format. In this communication, we attached a link to a survey. This survey was to assist us in gathering more information from you to help us group students based on parent requests or wishes as well as trying to accommodate scheduling needs. We are just finishing up the groupings and will have this information out to you by the end of this week. Please be on the lookout at the end of the week for an email and phone call indicating your child/s grouping classification.

When school begins, it will be important to note some new changes due to COVID-19. The school doors will not be open until 7:45 a.m. to limit the amount of gathering prior to the start of school. Parents/guardians will also not be able to enter the building while dropping or picking students up. We ask that you remain in or near your cars when you drop off or pick up your child, again to eliminate grouping or gathering outside of the building. We will also be sending home a parent/student daily checklist that assures that you will be checking your students temperature and health condition each day prior to bringing them to school.

We are also in the process of planning a technology device pick-up day prior to our September 8th start-up date so that all students, whether attending the blended format or 100% remote, will be ready to begin our school year. Our hope is that we will be able to accomplish this the week before school begins; please keep your eyes on this alert via PowerSchool and the Pentwater Public Schools App. We have created a link on our district website as well as the school app under the main menu entitled "Return to School" where you can find all relevant information and resources related to the start of this school year.

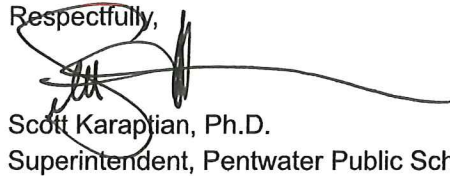
On the district's website and app you will be able to access your student's teacher page where all assignments and information will be posted for your easy access. You will need to go to our mobile app or website and click on your student's teacher to access this information in one easy step.

If you indicated in the survey a need for transportation for your student/s, you will be receiving an email from the transportation department with your pick up and drop off times along with procedural instructions while on district busing.

The other event that we are still working on is our annual school open house. I am currently looking at a virtual open house event where teachers will host a Zoom or Google Meet session in order to have live interaction with students and families. We will look at recording this event so those families who were unable to log on at that time could view it at their convenience.

In closing, I know these are very anxious and trying times, but we are very excited to be able to open our doors and have students entering our classrooms again! Things are going to look a little different for a while, but continuing to work together as a family, community and "**Village**" we will make it to the other side of this pandemic better and stronger than ever!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SK', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Scott Karapian, Ph.D.
Superintendent, Pentwater Public Schools