

Continuity of Education Plan

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Goal of Plan

The goal of Pocono Mountain School District is to continue educating all students by providing uninterrupted educational opportunities that reinforce and continue the course and/or grade level learning objectives for District students through the last scheduled day of the 2019-20 school year during the COVID-19 school closure.

Overview of Plan

Pocono Mountain School District (PMSD) understands the many challenges District families face due to the COVID-19 school closure. District officials are committed to supporting parent's efforts to create a scheduled, structured, and daily educational routine while children are at home. The PMSD administrative team has carefully researched resources to assist parents' efforts and support the reinforcement and maintenance of previously learned skills to keep children engaged in the educational process while schools remain closed across Pennsylvania.

Pocono Mountain School District's Continuity of Education plan is a multi-phased educational learning plan for students, as follows:

Phase 1, for Week 1 (March 16th) of the school closures: District Administrators encouraged all students to use the web-based educational resources that are always available to students through the PMSD website to engage students in educational enrichment and review of skills previously learned in the classroom.

Phase 2, for Week 2 (March 23rd) of the school closures: District Administrators created a new robust PMSD Home Learning Resources Section on the PMSD website with individual pages of resources for each grade level, students with disabilities, students who are mentally gifted and English Language Learners. Online resources cover core curricular areas. The section includes sample daily schedules to help parents plan their children's days during Week 2. There are also virtual educational field trips available to students. Phase 2

educational offerings provide a more expanded educational enrichment and review experience for students. Students are encouraged to work at their own pace on materials to reinforce and practice their skills at Math, English Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and Health/Physical Education.

Phase 3, for Week 3 (March 30th) of the school closures: District Administrators expanded the PMSD Home Learning Resources Section on the PMSD website to include new Extended Learning Activities resources pages for Grades K-2, 3-6, 7-8, and 9-12. Students in grades K - 12 were provided access to multiple learning activities in Art/Technology, English Language Arts, Math, Science and STEM, Social Studies, and Health/Physical Education. All students were encouraged to complete at least one learning opportunity from each of these content areas each day along with submitting a learning log.

District Administrators introduced and provided orientation sessions to parents and students on PMSD's Edgenuity & Google Classroom student online educational enrichment and learning platforms. All District teachers received professional development training on the two online platforms and will be guiding students in their classes while providing an interactive enrichment experience for their students. The combination of Edgenuity and Google Classroom complement each other and provide the most comprehensive curriculum-aligned online enrichment and learning opportunities for students that cover all core curricular areas, related arts, and electives.

Phase 4, for Week 4 (April 6th) of the school closures: District Administrators during the first three phases of our Continuity of Education Plan made increasing, extended online enrichment and review resources available to our K-2, 3-6, 7-8, and 9-12 students of all abilities. On Monday, April 6th, PMSD teachers will begin interacting with students regarding their educational needs on Pocono Mountain School District's Edgenuity & Google Classroom student online educational enrichment and learning platforms.

Phase 5, Week 5 (April 13th) of the school closures: PMSD teachers will be able to differentiate the learning experience for each student. The differentiation will be based upon a review of individual progress with the curriculum content and student navigation of the online learning platforms. The differentiations will vary and be individual to accommodate student success. Teachers will provide students weekly assignments to complete and students will be encouraged to submit their completed assignments on or before Sunday of each week. While assignments are not mandatory or graded for students during phases 5 and 6, we strongly encouraged students to complete their assignments and submit their completed assignments to their teachers each week.

PMSD's goal for the first two weeks of online learning is for all students and their parents to become familiar and comfortable with this new learning environment in Edgenuity and Google Classroom. PMSD wants students to gain confidence in their ability to use the two platforms, and in connecting and communicating with their teachers and their peers.

Phase 6, for Week 6 and Beyond (April 20th, 2020 to the end of the 2019-2020 school year) of the school closures: The Planned Learning Phase of online instruction is intended to "bring students back to school" in a virtual format. Planned instruction during this phase of online

learning will be focused on the essential skills and concepts students would normally learn through the end of the school year. Teachers will continue to reinforce previously taught skills and content while introducing new learning during this phase. To ensure that students are well prepared for the next grade level or post-graduation opportunities, participation in the Home Learning Program is required.

Paper copies of educational assignments will be distributed through PMSD building administrators at their respective schools for students who will not be participating in the online learning platforms. Students should retain their completed paper copies until further notice. Directions will be provided for collection of the packets at a later date that is safe for the PMSD community.

Expectations for Teaching and Learning

1. The curriculum is still the roadmap for teaching and learning; however, the focus is on the most essential elements of the curriculum.
2. The focus on our online instruction should be on the learning, not the grading.
3. Teachers may shorten, revise, exempt students from non-essential elements of the lesson/unit.
4. Teachers should aim to strike a balance between a typical lesson in a traditional classroom and virtual learning that is occurring in many homes across the district with varying levels of support and technology.
5. Teachers may encourage students to utilize the district resources from our district-approved list to support their instruction.

Communication Tools and Strategies

Pocono Mountain School District (PMSD) will be utilizing two online platforms to deliver online K-12 instruction. District chromebooks have been made available to students in grades K-12 who need a device to participate in virtual instruction. PMSD held two district-wide distribution days and continues to make arrangements to provide chromebooks to students in need of a device. To date, over 5000 chromebooks have been provided to PMSD families.

Additionally, over 300 MI-Fi devices are being distributed to families without internet capability in the home, as requested, to ensure students have the ability to access and use PMSD's online Home Learning platforms and resources. Also, 300 phones were provided to staff (guidance, special education, school psychologists, ESL) for use in communicating with PMSD students and families.

The PMSD provided information from Blue Ridge Cable and Atlantic Broadband regarding free Wi-Fi/internet service for households who may not have home internet.

Internally, administrators and principals send daily communication to teachers and staff members.

Google Classrooms have been developed for teachers to share resources pertaining to online instruction.

Teachers and administrators have been in contact with their students and will continue to communicate with students and families through their normal mode of communication, i.e Remind, Class Dojo, Google Classroom/Edgenuity messages and morning announcements, and district email.

Parent Link-Automated Notification System will be utilized to generate automated voice calls, text messages, and emails to all district families.

The PMSD website includes complete information and instructions for students and families, video tutorials, FAQ's and resources.

Letters to parents, Alert Messages and video messages from the Superintendent of Schools continue to be made available to PMSD families through the District website. Principals will be posting video messages to their students/parents on the school websites on a weekly basis.

Access (Devices, Platforms, Handouts)

Pocono Mountain School District (PMSD) provided over 5,000 chromebooks to students in need of devices to participate in the Continuity of Education Plan. PMSD is using two online platforms to deliver continuity of education enrichment and planned instruction to its students - Edgenuity and Google Classroom.

Additionally, over 300 MI-Fi devices are being distributed based for student use based on parent requests. Also, 300 phones were provided to staff (guidance, special education, school psychologists, ESL) to use to communicate with our students and families.

Paper copies of educational assignments will be distributed through PMSD building administrators at their respective schools for students who will not be participating in the online learning platforms. Students should retain their completed paper copies until further notice. Directions will be provided for collection of the packets at a later date that is safe for the PMSD community.

Staff General Expectations

1. Teachers will log on daily to post lessons and or facilitate instruction and will be available via the district email, the Edgenuity platform, and/or the Google Classroom to assist students with instruction between the hours of 8:00 a.m to 3:30 p.m.

2. All communication between teachers and students will be accomplished by email using the Edgenuity Messages, pmsd.org student email accounts, and district email. This allows all communication and work to be tracked and managed for the student and teacher.
3. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on March 13, 2020 between the Pocono Mountain School District and the Pocono Mountain Education Association.
4. Teachers will execute online instruction to the best of his/her ability.
5. Teachers recognize that students may not have access to textbooks, notes or printed materials, so instruction will be designed to use materials that will be accessible to all students or available online.
6. Teachers are encouraged to provide students with the opportunity to revise and resubmit their work.

Student Expectations

1. As detailed in the plan overview, students were recommended to login by 9:00am; however, students may login anytime throughout the day as learning during this phase will be flexible.
2. Read objectives, activities, and assignments for the day/week (Edgenuity course map).
3. Each day watch/read the presentation and complete the activities.
4. Every student has a PMSD Google account as well as an Edgenuity account and will join these two online platforms for all of their subject areas.
5. Complete and submit their assignments in a timely fashion.
6. Parents can help their child and submit questions to the teacher via email or the Edgenuity/Google Classroom online platform.

Attendance / Accountability

Beginning the week of April 20th, students participating in the digital learning program are required to login to Google Classroom and/or Edgenuity daily. We recommend that students login by 9:00AM, however, students may login anytime throughout the day. Students participating in the non-digital learning program are required to complete the daily attendance log and complete weekly assignments.

Pocono Mountain School District will implement the following grading procedures for the remainder of the school year.

Grading and Reporting Procedures

K-2 Grading Frequently-Asked Questions

1. How will my student be graded?

Parents will receive a report at the end of the school year which shows the progress each student made in their online learning program(s). Continuous progress can be viewed by parents on a regular basis via Edgenuity and/or Pathblazer.

2. Why are we not using our typical developmental report card?

We cannot assess student performance of developmental skills covered in a typical marking period. The developmental rating scale would be unjustified in comparison to a fully completed marking period. Teachers will monitor each individual student's progress in Edgenuity and/or PathBlazer.

3. I am enrolled in PMSD Cyber Learning, how will cyber course progress be determined?

You will receive the Edgenuity progress report.

**3-6 Grading
Frequently-Asked Questions**

1. Why are we using Pass/Fail course grades?

We cannot assign grades meant to assess student performance on course content covered in a typical marking period since students cannot be taught the full course content under the current online circumstances. Grades meant for a full marking period would be unjustified in comparison to a fully completed marking period. The solution is to describe student learning more broadly with a Pass or Fail.

Your marking period 3 grades will receive a course grade of Pass/ Fail that takes into account the work you completed in your classes prior to the school closures that began on March 16, 2020. You will also receive a course grade of Pass/Fail at the conclusion of marking period 4.

2. How will my courses be graded?

Due to students' varying abilities to work independently at the 3-6 level, student work will be formally assessed, which means teachers will provide scores and feedback for the purpose of indicating whether a student demonstrated understanding of the work completed. Students will receive a course grade of Pass/Fail for the 3rd and 4th marking periods.

3. How will honor roll be impacted by Pass/Fail?

Honor roll will not be calculated for the 3rd and 4th marking periods for grades 5-6.

- 4. I am enrolled in PMSD Cyber Learning, how will cyber course grades be calculated?**
You will receive a course grade of Pass/Fail.

Junior High School Grading Frequently-Asked Questions

- 1. Why are we using Pass/Fail course grades?**

We cannot assign letter grades meant to assess student performance on course content covered in a typical marking period or semester since students cannot be taught the full course content under the current online circumstances. Letter grades meant for a full semester course would be unjustified in comparison to a fully completed course. The solution is to describe student learning more broadly with a "Pass," while awarding full course credit.

Junior High school teachers may choose to grade each individual assignment and provide feedback during the 4th marking period for the purpose of indicating whether a student demonstrated an understanding of the work completed. Individual assignment grades must then be converted to a Pass/Fail for the 4th marking period and 2nd semester grades.

- 2. How will my courses be graded?**

Year-long courses and Cycle Courses: Your grades from marking period 1 & marking period 2 will be factored into your final grade. Your marking period 3 grades will receive a course grade of Pass/ Fail that takes into account the work you completed in your classes prior to the school closures that began on March 16, 2020. You will receive a course grade of Pass/Fail at the conclusion of marking period 4. Your grades from marking period 3 & marking period 4 will not be factored into your final grade.

- 3. How will honor roll be impacted by Pass/Fail?**

Honor roll will not be calculated for marking period 3 or 4.

- 4. Will there be exams at the end of marking period 4?**

No, there will not be exams at the conclusion of marking period 4.

- 5. I am enrolled in the PMSD Cyber Program, how will cyber course grades be calculated?**

You will receive a course grade of Pass/Fail. Your course grade will not be factored into your cumulative grade point average (GPA).

High School Grading Frequently-Asked Questions

1. Why are we using Pass/Fail course grades?

We cannot assign letter grades meant to assess student performance on course content covered in a typical marking period or semester since students cannot be taught the full course content under the current online circumstances. Letter grades meant for a full semester course would be unjustified in comparison to a fully completed course. The solution is to describe student learning more broadly with a "Pass," while awarding full course credit.

High school teachers may choose to grade each individual assignment and provide feedback during the 4th marking period for the purpose of indicating whether a student demonstrated an understanding of the work completed. Individual assignment grades must then be converted to a Pass/Fail for the 4th marking period and 2nd semester grades.

2. How will my courses be graded?

Year-long courses: Your grades from marking period 1 & marking period 2 will be factored into your cumulative grade point average (GPA). Your marking period 3 grades will receive a course grade of Pass/ Fail that takes into account the work you completed in your classes prior to the school closures that began on March 16, 2020. You will also receive a course grade of Pass/Fail at the conclusion of marking period 4. Your grades from marking period 3 & marking period 4 will not be factored into your cumulative grade point average (GPA).

A. **AP courses:** Your grade from marking period 2 will be factored into your cumulative grade point average (GPA). Your marking period 3 grades will receive a course grade of Pass/ Fail that takes into account the work you completed in your classes prior to the school closures that began on March 16, 2020. You will also receive a course grade of Pass/Fail at the conclusion of marking period 4. Your grades from marking period 3 and marking period 4 will not be factored into your cumulative grade point average (GPA).

B. **2nd semester electives:** You will receive a course grade of Pass/Fail. Your cumulative grade point average (GPA) will remain unaffected by courses that end in marking period 4.

3. How will honor roll be impacted by Pass/Fail?

Honor roll will not be calculated for marking period 3 or 4.

4. Will Honors/AP courses receive a weighted grade with the Pass/Fail grade?

No, Honors/AP courses will not receive a weighted grade or contribute to cumulative GPA.

5. Will a Pass/Fail grade on my transcript affect my college admissions?

All high schools, colleges, and universities across the country are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many high schools, colleges, and universities have adjusted their grading scales to Pass/Fail due to the school closure. As students apply to college in future years, college admission counselors will be very aware of the unique nature of this semester. If you have concerns about a specific university, we encourage you to contact the university's admissions office.

6. How will class rank be calculated?

Class rank for the 2019-2020 school year will be determined by cumulative grade point averages at the conclusion of semester one final grades.

7. Will there be exams at the end of marking period 4?

No, there will not be final exams at the conclusion of marking period 4.

8. I am a student-athlete, how will the NCAA Eligibility Center view a Pass/Fail in a course?

From NCAA.org, "In response to closings, cancellations and changes related to COVID-19, the Eligibility Center is closely monitoring the impact on students and their ability to meet NCAA initial-eligibility requirements. The EC will be posting more information here in the coming days to assist our prospective student-athletes and the high school community. For information on COVID-19, please visit ncaa.org/COVID-19 and continue to monitor for more information from the Eligibility Center at on.ncaa.com/EC_COVID.

In response to questions regarding schools that have moved to **distance or e-learning environments**, the Eligibility Center has released guidance on this topic. [Click here](#) to read more.

The **ACT and SAT have modified their testing schedules**. [Click here](#) for ACT information. [Click here](#) for SAT information."

9. I am enrolled at the Monroe County Vocational Technical School. How will my MCTI grade be calculated?

Your grades from marking period 1 & marking period 2 will be factored into your cumulative grade point average (GPA). You will receive a course grade of Pass/Fail at the conclusion of marking period 4. Your grades from marking period 3 & marking

period 4 will not be factored into your cumulative grade point average (GPA).

10. I am enrolled in the PMSD Cyber Program, how will cyber course grades be calculated?

You will receive a course grade of Pass/Fail. Your course grade will not be factored into your cumulative grade point average (GPA).

Staff General Expectations

1. Teachers should plan online lessons that are sensitive to the needs of their students and families while attempting to deliver the essential components of the curriculum.
2. Three days of professional development were provided to the teachers on the Edgenuity and Google Classroom online learning platforms.
3. Teachers must seek administrative approval to use websites that have not been previously approved.
4. Teachers are expected to respond to communication from students/parents in a timely manner(24 hours).
5. If a student is “absent” or not participating, the information will be sent to the school counselor and principal so they can reach out to the parent and schedule a conference if necessary.
6. All teachers will maintain a parent communication log.

Good Faith Efforts for Access and Equity for All Students

Pocono Mountain School District (PMSD) Administrators, Curriculum Directors and Supervisors of Special Education have worked diligently to make a good faith effort to develop a Continuity of Education Plan for all students as recommended by the Department of Education. This plan is as a result of the national health crisis of COVID-19. This interim plan of enrichment, review and planned instruction for all students through online extended learning opportunities began on April 6, 2020. It will be implemented during the period of the mandated school closure in response to declaration of a global pandemic.

For an exceptional student under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504, or Gifted Education, this plan will include a continuity of support, related services and/or specially designed instruction that is reasonable, flexible, accessible, and/or appropriate. These supports and services will be provided in subjects for which the student participates in the general curriculum as outlined in his or her current IEP, GIEP or for accommodations and modifications in the student’s Section 504 Service Plan to the maximum extent possible under the limitations and circumstances of the school closure due to a national health emergency.

Furthermore, the PMSD website has a robust amount of resources for families in a variety of

subject areas for all students. This includes resources for students with disabilities specific to a student's needs academically, socially and emotionally, as well as those students identified as mentally gifted.

Each student is provided ongoing communication with the student's case manager (IEP or GIEP) or school counselor (Section 504) for further guidance and assistance to address online or virtual extended learning opportunities or alternative materials through planned instruction. Parents/guardians are a vital member of the IEP/GIEP/Section 504 team and their input will be critical to student success.

Special Education Supports

Special Education Teacher Expectations for teaching and learning for students with disabilities:

1. Ensure all students on the case managers' case list has a chromebook, computer, or other device for online learning. Devices are provided by the District, if necessary.
2. Ensure all students including those with a disability have access to the general education curriculum with supplemental supports and services to the maximum extent possible under the current circumstances of the school closures.
3. Notify parents/guardians in writing the plan for each individual student for providing support and services following the initial IEP/Section 504 discussion as a result of the school closures.
4. Maintain on-going communication with parents/guardians regarding student progress.
5. Schedule times to communicate directly with students and/or parents/guardians including those supported by paraprofessionals to help provide support in the remote learning environment.
6. Collaborate and communicate with core teachers to provide modifications and accommodations that are flexible, appropriate, reasonable and/or accessible.
7. Provide alternative materials/assignments based on the needs of the students.
8. Schedule and hold IEP/Section 504 meetings through audio conferencing options like Zoom.
9. During the extended school closure, IEP Teams may decide to revise interim plans through the IEP/Section 504 team process to ensure that students are receiving appropriate services with success.
10. Assess students for MyPath or Pathblazers to determine instructional levels as a component of the Edgenuity Platform and plan instruction accordingly.
11. Utilize Google Classroom as an alternative to Edgenuity as needed for communicating with students regarding progress, assignments or other necessary learning opportunities.
12. Ensure parents/guardians that once school reopens and/or resumes, the IEP/Section

504 team will meet to discuss the student's current level of educational functioning and needs. Any necessary evaluations will be conducted and revisions to the student's IEP/Section 504 Plan will be made based on an individual determination of the effect of the break and/or school closures.

EL Supports

The Federal and State guidance states that schools must work to meet the needs of all students, with particular attention to free appropriate public education (FAPE) for English Learners (EL). This document is to clarify how English Learners are supported during their daily instruction on the Edgenuity and Google Classroom online learning platform.

Teacher of the ESOL Staff Expectations for teaching and learning:

1. Classroom teachers invite ESOL teachers as co-teachers to their Edgenuity and Google Classrooms if appropriate to provide support in content classes. It is still the classroom teacher's responsibility to provide the primary instruction. Classroom teachers are expected to modify assignments for English Learners as usual.
2. Classroom teachers contact the ESOL teacher to request support for an ESOL student.
3. The ESOL teacher may provide alternative materials/assignments based on the needs of the EL students.
4. ESOL teachers will provide guided instruction and progress monitoring through the Edgenuity Pathblazer (K-5) or MyPath(6-12) programs.
5. ESOL teachers will schedule times to communicate directly with students and/or parents (email) and phone communication to help support in the online learning environment.
6. Parents who have questions should contact either the child's ESOL teacher, building principal, or the EL Director through email.

Gifted Education

Teacher of the Gifted Staff Expectations for teaching and learning:

1. Ensure all students on the case managers' case list has a chrome book, computer, or other device for on-line learning. Devices are provided by the District, if necessary.
2. Ensure all students including those who are mentally gifted have access to the general education curriculum with specially designed instruction to address giftedness and strengths to the maximum extent possible under the current circumstances of the school closures.
3. Notify parents/guardians in writing the plan for each individual student for gifted support and services following the initial interim GIEP plan discussion following the

school closures.

4. Maintain on-going communication with parents/guardians regarding student progress.
5. Schedule times to communicate directly with students and/or parents/guardians to provide support in the remote learning environment.
6. Collaborate and communicate with core teachers to provide gifted supports and services that are flexible, appropriate, reasonable and accessible.
7. Provide alternative materials/assignments based on the needs of the students.
8. Schedule and hold GIEP meetings through audio conferencing options like Zoom.
9. During the extended school closure, GIEP Teams may decide to revise interim plans through the GIEP team process to ensure that students are receiving appropriate services with success.
10. Utilize Google Classroom as an alternative to Edgenuity as needed for communicating with students regarding progress, assignments or other necessary learning opportunities.
11. Ensure parents that once school reopens and/or resumes, the GIEP team will meet to discuss the student's current level of educational functioning and needs. Any necessary evaluations will be conducted and revisions to the student's GIEP will be made based on an individual determination of the effect of the break and/or school closures.

Building/Grade Level Contacts

The building principals will take the lead in building specific communication efforts and provide answers to specific inquiries from students and parents. District parent communication has stated that specific instructional/technology related requests be directed to the student's building principal.

Clear Run Elementary Center (k-2): hdonohue@pmsd.org / kdoughton@pmsd.org

Clear Run Intermediate School (3-6): avaughn@pmsd.org

Swiftwater Elementary Center (k – 3): kofalt@pmsd.org / ttoleno@pmsd.org

Swiftwater Intermediate School (4 -6): kkunsman@pmsd.org

Tobyhanna Elementary Center (k-6): adangelo@pmsd.org

East Junior High School (7-8): kfanelli@pmsd.org

West Junior High School (7-8): evogt@pmsd.org

West High School (9-12): mwade@pmsd.org

East High School (9-12): mjones@pmsd.org

Academy (7-12)/Cyber Learning Program (k-12): nwandalowski@pmsd.org

Resource Links

1. PMSD Website links
 - a. PMSD Edgenuity & Google Classroom Resources: <https://www.pmsd.org/Domain/630>
 - b. K-12 Home Learning Resources: <https://www.pmsd.org/Page/2325>
 - c. K-12 Extended Home Learning Resources: <https://www.pmsd.org/Page/2325>
 - d. Pocono Mountain Web Resources: <https://www.pmsd.org/Domain/144>
 - e. Special Education: <https://www.pmsd.org/Page/2320>
 - f. Gifted Education: <https://www.pmsd.org/Page/2319>
 - g. Autism: <https://www.pmsd.org/Page/2320>
 - h. Sensory Integration: <https://www.pmsd.org/Page/2320>
 - i. Speech/Language: <https://www.pmsd.org/Page/2320>
 - j. Social Emotional Learning: <https://www.pmsd.org/Page/2310>
 - k. Health and Wellness: <https://www.pmsd.org/Page/2312>
2. Achieve 3000: <https://remotesupport.achieve3000.com/>
3. Smarty Ants: <https://play.smartyants.com/login>
4. Edmodo: https://info.edmentum.com/Worksheet-Bundles_Download.html