

March 13, 2020 – 3:15 p.m.

## **Important Update: School Closure**

Good afternoon.

This morning our administrative team participated in a webinar with the Pennsylvania Secretary of Education and, subsequently, watched the Office of the Governor's press conference regarding COVID-19. After consulting with District leaders from Allegheny, Washington, Fayette, and Greene Counties we have made the difficult but necessary decision to close our schools.

**Effective Monday, March 16, 2020, Peters Township School District will remain CLOSED at least through March 27, 2020.** During this time, ALL school district activities and athletics at all levels are suspended. We will continually monitor recommendations from the CDC, the PA Health Department, and PA Department of Education (PDE) to determine if any additional closure is warranted beyond March 27, 2020.

We are currently treating this closure as a school break without instruction until we are provided additional guidance or instructional options from the Pennsylvania Department of Education or the Office of the Governor. As of this afternoon, PDE has not issued any waiver or alternative learning options to meet our mandatory 180 instructional days.

At this time, we do not know what impact this will have on our school calendar relative to make-up days, number of required instructional days, standardized testing schedules, etc. However, at this point in time, those issues are secondary to the health and wellbeing of our students, our staff and the greater community. We are making today's cancellation decision out of an abundance of caution. The medical community has been clear – the only way to help stop the spread of COVID-19 is to practice social distancing.

We know there are many questions – especially how this closure will affect our graduating seniors. We ask for your patience as we sort through some of these issues. Information will be shared on our district's website as well as through additional emails as decisions are made.

We recognize that this extended closure will be a hardship for many families and we will work to provide a list of resources available in the Community.

Thank you for your understanding during this difficult time.

Respectfully,

Jeannine L. French, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools