

PHILIPSBURG-OSCEOLA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



Phone: (814) 342-1050
Fax: (814) 342-7208
Web Site: www.pomounties.org

April 17, 2020

Dear Philipsburg-Osceola Area School District Families:

Beginning on Monday, April 20, 2020, the Philipsburg-Osceola Area School District will begin to implement its "Planned Instruction" Continuity of Education plan as a means of supporting our students instructionally while they are at home during the COVID-19 crisis.

Planned Instruction

Planned Instruction is formal teaching and learning similar to that which occurs in a classroom setting. Within this process, teachers use planned courses of instruction of new concepts/skills aligned to grade level standards. Teachers assess learning of their students and adjust instruction based upon student progress. In order to receive grades/credit, students must attend regularly and complete the course requirements.

Instructional Materials and Method of Delivery

Packets:

- Grades K-4- Teachers will supply students with new content in English Language Arts and math. Packets will be distributed every two weeks via bus delivery and parent pick-up at both elementary buildings.
- Grades 5-8- Teachers will supply students with new content in core subject areas (English Language Arts, math, social studies, and science) and special subjects (art, music, library, physical education, tech ed, FCS). Packets will be distributed every two weeks via bus delivery and parent pick-up at the middle school.
- Grades 9-12- Students without access to the internet should email a guidance counselor to arrange for the distribution of printed materials.
- Special education students will receive new content through packets provided by the regular education teacher providing that instructional materials meet the needs of the students. When this is not the case, special education teachers will provide students with new content and materials tailored to each student's instructional levels and needs. Packets will be distributed every two weeks via bus/van delivery or parent pick-up at the child's school.

Teacher/Student Interaction:

- Grades K-12- Staff will conduct Zoom meetings with students to provide instruction and answer questions related to packets.

- Grades K-4- Students and teachers will communicate via email, phone, Class Dojo, and Zoom meetings.
- Grades 5-8- Students and staff will communicate via Zoom and email.
- Grades 9-12- Teachers will reach out to students with new material through weekly email, Remind, the Sapphire community portal, district website -- <https://www.pomounties.org/1/Content2/566> , and/or Zoom.

Online Curriculum and Coursework:

- Grades K-8- Students will have access to Odysseyware. The district will provide teachers with professional development before implementation of this virtual learning platform.
- Grades 9-12- eMountie Online Enrichment Academy will be available for any student requesting to do more. We will be able to provide more structured educational resources within math, science, English, and social studies if a student chooses to do so. We will open the second semester of the classes for students. We are planning on opening up this option and leaving the option open throughout the summer to help students prepare for next year. This will not be graded per say, but a student can get a good idea of their success. This is not a replacement for communicating with our teachers, it is an enrichment option. To enroll in online activities, follow these steps:

1. Please email your school counselor. The counselor will then email our online coordinator.
2. Provide an email address that you check regularly.
3. Our online coordinator will email login instructions.

Additional Resources:

- Grades K-12- Additional online resources are available on each school's website.
- Internet access-- We realize that internet access might be an issue for some students. Students are able to access our school WIFI at any school building by logging into the PO Guest account. Please stay in your car and in the parking lots. This will provide access should you need it. Comcast has currently opened free hotspots across the country and is offering free internet for 60 days for qualifying families. The link to this information is <https://corporate.comcast.com/covid-19>
- WIFI Hotspots- Xfinity also provides information on numerous hotspots available in the area. Xfinity WiFi hotspots LOCATED IN BUSINESSES AND OUTDOOR LOCATIONS are available to anyone who needs them for free during the COVID-19 national emergency, including non-Xfinity Internet subscribers. Look for "xfinitywifi" in the list of available networks on your device.
 1. Go online to wifi.xfinity.com
 2. Use 'Find a Hotspot' and enter your city or zip code
 3. Go to location of hotspot

Student Expectations/Grading

It is recommended that all students in Grades K-12 make a good faith effort to engage in the instructional activities provided by teachers. Completed packets will be collected bi-weekly when new packets are distributed. Students who make an effort to complete assignments and/or participate in Zoom sessions with teachers will be awarded a *participation* grade.

Special Education

Special education teachers and related service providers will continue to be available to support you and your child during the closure, providing answers to questions about your child's daily activities. Your child's Special Education teachers have been reaching out through email and phone to work with you on ways we can best meet your child's needs during this time. We have been providing packets and materials tailored to student's levels and needs. Our teachers are also enjoying their time Zooming or speaking with your child to check in with them. We are encouraging all students to participate to the greatest extent possible with the work provided. Your child's Special Education teacher is continuing to work on IEP's and RR's during this time and having meetings through phone and Zoom. We are also continuing to plan for the return of your child so we can work aggressively to make up for our missed face-to-face instruction. As always, please reach out to cbmarsh@pomounties.org when you have any questions or needs that arise.

Administration Contact Information:

Dr. Gregg Paladina, Superintendent- gpaladina@pomounties.org

Mr. Justin Hazelton, POHS Principal, jhazelton@pomounties.org

Mr. Dave Simcox, POHS Assistant Principal, dsimcox@pomounties.org

Mrs. Susan Harris, POMS Principal, sharris@pomounties.org

Mrs. Kelly Rees, POMS Assistant Principal, krees@pomounties.org

Mr. Jeff Baker, Philipsburg Elementary Principal, jbaker@pomounties.org

Mr. Brian Pelka, Osceola Mills Elementary Principal, bpelka@pomounties.org

Mrs. Casey Marsh, Director of Special Education, cbmarsh@pomounties.org

Mrs. Linda Hockey, Administrative Specialist, lhockey@pomounties.org

Thank you for understanding that this information will continue to be evaluated and revised or updated as needed. This is new to everyone, and things are changing rapidly. Finally, we hope you are taking advantage of this opportunity to spend quality time with your families. We will get through this together!

Sincerely,

The Philipsburg-Osceola Administrative Team

The Mission of the Philipsburg-Osceola Area School District is to provide opportunities, resources and support for students to become lifelong learners.