WE MISS YOU OCEAN AVENUE FAMILIES!

REMINDER ~ NO SCHOOL ~ APRIL BREAK
APRIL 17 - APRIL 24

REMOTE LEARNING EXTENDED - REMAINDER OF 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

The Portland Public Schools will continue to deliver learning remotely throughout the rest of the 2019-2020 school year, instead of until May 4, as previously planned. In his April 8 letter sent to PPS families, Superintendent Xavier Botana says he is extending the remote learning plan based on a recommendation April 7 by Maine Education Commissioner Pender Makin.

The commissioner’s recommendation that Maine school districts continue with remote learning is supported by the governor. It is based on guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) that recommends an 8- to 20-week timeframe for avoiding large group/in-person instruction once there is evidence of community transmission of COVID-19.

In the letter, the superintendent says the decision was a difficult one because of the challenges that extending remote learning until the end of the school year pose for everyone in the Portland Public Schools community. However, he said, the safety of staff, students and families is the district’s prime concern.

Read the superintendent’s April 8 letter HERE.

Please know that we are being thoughtful about end-of-year activities and the end of the school year in general. You will be receiving more details regarding this in the coming weeks.
A SHIFT IN SCHEDULE ~
STARTING AFTER APRIL BREAK
(WEEK OF APRIL 27)

In responding to feedback from both families and teachers, we
will be adding breathing room to the current remote learning
schedule. Following April Break, there will be no new
instruction/assignments on Fridays. This will be a time for
students to decide what, if any, assignment needs to be done. It
will also be a time for teachers to work with students needing
more time.

While the majority of our students were able to engage with the remote learning immediately
starting on Wednesday, March 18th, not all were able to do so. As the district rolled out
laptops and hot spots to more and more families, our engagement increased. Our goal is for
this week to have 100% of students able to engage with learning!

Another rationale behind this shift in schedule is that it will help families with multiple siblings
sharing a computer at home.

Our students and families have done an amazing job with this new way of teaching/learning,
and we are so proud of all of you. Keep up the great work!

NOTES FROM NURSE LAURIE

Hello Ocean Avenue friends! I miss you all but are comforted by
the fact that you are safe at home. While we may not be ‘doing’
as much as we used to, this is our ‘work’ right now and is how
we are staying safe and responsible.

But, staying close to home and a distance from others doesn’t
mean we can’t go outside. In fact, exercise is one of the ways
we keep ourselves healthy. So, if you can go for a walk, bike
ride, skate or skateboard safely (maintaining a healthy distance from others), do it! Get a
breath of fresh air, listen to the birds and feel the sunshine. Maybe you can even have your
lunch outside (a private picnic). Playgrounds are closed (off limits), but some parks are still
open and have space to walk or run or ride.
You can't catch germs from the air unless you are close to someone else or touching things that a lot of people touch. If you can't get outside for some reason, it's OK to open your windows and get some fresh air in your place or sit on a porch or balcony. Sing a song to (or with) your neighbor! Make chalk drawings on your driveway. Dance. Read a book under a tree. It's OK to have a little fun outside while you are being safe!

For more information on coronavirus and staying safe, go to:

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Articles for Parents:
- [Coronavirus (COVID-19)]
- [Coronavirus (COVID-19): Your Questions Answered]
- [Coronavirus (COVID-19): How to Talk to Your Child]
- [Coronavirus (COVID-19): What to Do if Your Child Is Sick]
- [Coronavirus (COVID-19): How to Prepare Your Family]
- [Coronavirus (COVID-19): Home Care & Precautions]
- [Coronavirus (COVID-19): Social Distancing With Children]
- [Coronavirus (COVID-19): Calming Anxiety]
- [Coronavirus (COVID-19): Pregnancy FAQs]
- [Q&A: Is it Safe to Breastfeed if I Have Coronavirus (COVID-19)?]
- [Coronavirus (COVID-19): How YOU Can Stop the Spread]
- [Coronavirus (COVID-19): Helping Kids With Autism Cope]

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Article for Kids
- [Coronavirus (COVID-19): What Kids Can Do]

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Article for Teens
- [Coronavirus (COVID-19): How You Can Make a Difference]

**OAES CLASS CODES AND GOOGLE SITES**
- CLASS CODES and GOOGLE SITES for ALL TEACHERS -- [Click here]
- HOW TO LOG INTO GOOGLE CLASSROOM -- [Click here]
- HOW TO TAKE PHOTOS/VIDEOS ON CHROMEBOOKS -- [Click here]
- HOW TO ASK FOR HELP WITH A "Help Ticket" -- [Click here]
- HOW TO GET HELP WITH TRANSLATIONS -- [Click here]
FOOD AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES

FREE BREAKFAST & LUNCH EVERY DAY!

Just a reminder that there is FREE breakfast and lunch offered every day from 10 AM-12 PM at various school locations around the city. Please see the map below for meal pick-up locations.

CLICK HERE FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF FOOD RESOURCES

All food sites will remain open during April Recess (April 17th-April 24th).
INFORMATION FROM THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

The Boys & Girls Club may not have their doors open, but they are still helping our families with food and virtual activities. The club has grab and go dinners for families Monday-Friday, and now, on Fridays, they are sending families home with food for the weekend. They are also providing a virtual clubhouse on Facebook with fun activities and an incentive program.

For more information on virtual happenings at the club, please check out the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southern Maine Virtual Clubhouse.
PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HELP DESK FOR FAMILIES

You can use the PPS HelpDesk phone line to get answers to your questions and concerns on any issue during the shutdown. The phone number is: 207-874-8159. That HelpDesk phone line has access to different languages. You can also send an email in your primary language at ppshelpline@portlandschools.org.

OCEAN AVENUE SCHOOL

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