



James Simpson <simpsonj@penntrafford.org>

PMS ReOpening Email 8/5/20

1 message

PENN MIDDLE SCHOOL <email@blackboard.com>

Wed, Aug 5, 2020 at 6:43 AM

Reply-To: email@blackboard.com

To: simpsonj@penntrafford.org



Penn-Trafford School District

Our Mission: "Effective, Efficient, Quality Education"

To the Parents and Guardians of Penn Middle Students,

As we start the school year, please know it is our goal to make sure we take care of the educational, social, and emotional needs of our students, all while keeping their health and welfare in focus. Please feel free to contact me with any specific concerns or questions.

Thanks to all of you that replied to the instructional choice survey Dr. Harris sent out. I have reviewed every entry and have contacted many parents that posted a specific question in the comment section. I will continue to do this as we approach the start of school. Currently, 82% of our students will return to traditional instruction and 17% will move forward with the digital plan. No matter which platform you are choosing, the teachers and I are committed to making your child's learning meaningful and rigorous. The teachers are working diligently to develop their classroom approaches so the traditional students and the digital students receive the same level of instruction.

6th-grade Orientation

Welcome to all of our new 6th-grade students and their parents. Orientation was scheduled for August 13 and 20. I was planning on splitting the students into two groups and each group attending on a separate evening with parents. Unfortunately, with the 25 person maximum for indoor gatherings, I can no longer do this. I will post two orientation videos on the Penn Middle Website on August 13 - one will be for 6th-grade students & parents and the other for parents only.

6th-Grade Tour

During the week of August 17, 6th-grade students will come to Penn Middle for a tour of the building. This tour will be very similar to the tour on past orientation nights but with additional information for our new-normal. Students will be assigned a day and time to attend - parents/guardians will receive an email with this day and time. During this visit, the students will tour the building with a teacher, exchange their chromebooks, set-up lockers, and walk their schedules. Only students will attend the tour. These tours will be in the morning at 7:30 am, 9:00 am, and 10:30 am.

7th & 8th Grade

7th & 8th-grade students will not have a set tour, they already are familiar with the building. During the week of August 17, students can walk their schedules, set up their lockers, and exchange their chromebooks. Students will "walk" the building from 12 Noon to 4 pm on August 17, 18, 19, or 20. There should be no large groups, - 5-6 students per group max. Parents cannot attend this walk-through.

Chromebooks

Students kept their chromebooks from last school year, now we need to exchange them for new ones for the coming year. Please review the [Chromebook Letter](#). It explains the registration and \$30 payment process. Students will pick up their chromebooks the week of August 17th. 6th-grade in the AM and 7th & 8th in the PM, see the two paragraphs above.

Open House

Currently there will be no large scale Open House like we have done in previous years. The teachers will create a video that introduces parents to their classroom and post these videos on their eChalk websites.

Calendar & Website

Please refer to our [webpage](#) often as it will have the most recent updates for school related news. Also, I suggest reviewing the [calendar](#) feature on the website as this will keep all your information on important dates and events organized.

Understandably, this is a unique time in education, and in the world, but working together as a community will ensure success for our kids. I know everyone is concerned about their children and their learning at this time. I also understand everyone has an opinion on this matter, but let's work together to make the student experience positive and worthwhile.

All students coming into Penn Middle School during the week of August 17 must wear a mask or shield. If this is not possible, please contact me via phone or email.

Thank you,

Jim Simpson

Principal

Penn Middle School

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