

Parents and Guardians of Penn Middle School Students,

As we close out the calendar year, I want to thank our students, our teachers and staff, and you all for your patience, understanding, and flexibility. I hope you have a wonderfully relaxing and healthy break.

As a reminder, we will return to the fully-remote platform on January 4 through 8. This our current plan that we have been on since December 15. On January 11, we will return to our traditional/digital mode with students in the building and learning at home. For "digital" students, there will no longer be a digital check-in email from Mrs. Inglese. Students that are learning at home must log-on to homeroom each day for attendance. Very much like the remote plan we are on now, students must log into homeroom by 8:05 am or be considered tardy.

We have updated our website to include various [Covid assistance sites](#). If your family is experiencing trouble for any reason, these are a great starting point. You can find these websites under the Penn Middle Communications section of our [webpage](#). If you don't find what you need on our website, please contact me and we can discuss the issue you are facing personally.

Attendance Codes - I have had a few calls about the attendance codes you see on your child's individual student Powerschool page. Here are common codes and their meaning.

<u>Code</u>	<u>Description</u>
(blank)	Present
OP	Online Present
AB	Excused Absence (homeroom)
CA	Class Absence (period to period absence)
U	Unexcused Absence (homeroom)
T	Tardy
TU	Tardy Unexcused
TM	Tardy Medical
M	Medically Excused Absence
V	Vaction (preapproved)

Right now our biggest issue is students not logging onto homeroom (AB or U) or period-to-period (CA) digitally. If you see multiple instances of these on the attendance report of your child's Powerschool page it is a problem. Unless there is an absence you are aware of, your son/daughter is technically "cutting class".

Finally, I have not spent nearly enough time during this pandemic to be grateful for the beauty and blessings in front of me every day, but I certainly plan to over the break. I encourage you to do the same.

Good Health, Good Times, and Happy Holidays to you all. Here's to a better 2021!

Jim Simpson

Principal Penn Middle School

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