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April 22, 2020

Dear Centennial Parents and Guardians,

I hope you and your loved ones are safe, healthy, and doing your best to remain sane as we comply with the stay-at-home orders in Pennsylvania.

As you are likely aware, Governor Wolf announced that all schools will remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The governor made this decision in consultation with the Secretary of Health, Dr. Rachel Levine, and Secretary of Education, Mr. Pedro Rivera.

Although our school building on Avenue C remains closed, teaching and learning continues to flourish - thanks to our dedicated teachers and staff, and our supremely awesome students and their families. I know transitioning to remote learning has not been easy; you are juggling tremendous stressors like working from home or at your place of employment, caring for ill family members, running daily home operations, managing your own emotions and worries as a result of evolving changes in daily life caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and now, helping with your children with their schoolwork. Your daily sacrifices are not unnoticed or unappreciated. We are grateful for your partnership during these trying times. Since April 6th, Centennial School teachers have been delivering planned instruction, which is a type of teaching and learning similar to that which occurs in a classroom setting. Many of our students and their parents have reached out to share positive comments about our distance learning activities and how Centennial School staff have helped their child achieve a sense of normalcy and predictability to their day. We hope as our students adjust to online learning, they become more comfortable and confident meeting the expectations of this new learning format. It is important to know that our teachers and staff are available to help you troubleshoot issues and navigate our continuity of education plan. Please reach out to your child's teacher for assistance. We are here for you and want to help alleviate frustration and support your child's success.

Here are a few additional updates that you may find helpful:

Centennial Calendar

The last day of instruction for the 2019-2020 will be Tuesday, June 9th as indicated on our [calendar](#). We treated March 16th - March 20th as professional development days to launch our distance learning program which began on March 23rd.



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Continuity of Education Plan

PDE's Bureau of Special Education (BSE) strongly encouraged schools to provide continuity of education during extended school closure, and to the greatest extent possible, students with disabilities are to receive special education and related services as prescribed in their Individual Education Programs (IEPs). PDE also acknowledged that [educational and related services and supports](#) may need to be adjusted accordingly.

To that end, Centennial School's continuity of education plan is calculated to provide relevant instruction with flexibility, compassion, empathy, and trust. At the heart of Centennial School's continuity of education plan is our desire to support, not overwhelm, our students and their families while providing a sense of routine and normalcy associated with their school experience. We are providing supports and services as closely approximating those in your child's IEP or as possible and as appropriate to each student's circumstances.

Grading

The end of Third Marking Period was re-adjusted to March 13th to align with students' last day of in-person instruction. The Fourth Marking Period began on March 23rd, reflecting the first day that distance learning activities were provided to our students. In recognition that letter and number grading systems are not feasible under the current conditions, Centennial School will be issuing grades based on Pass/Fail for the Fourth Marking Period. Progress notes on IEP goals will also be modified as many data collection systems and progress monitoring tools associated with measuring "progress" are unavailable in this distance learning arena. Honor Roll will not be calculated for the Fourth Marking Period. For our high school students, Fourth Marking Period grades will not be factored into your cumulative grade point average (GPA).

Graduation

In accordance with our school calendar, graduation will occur on May 27th. Plans are underway to honor and celebrate our Centennial graduates. While it is not possible to gather in person at this time, we will make every effort to create a meaningful graduation. We will share additional information about Centennial's graduation activities in the near future. As in the past, Centennial's class of 2020 also has the opportunity to participate in their resident school district's commencement celebrations. Please reach out to your school district representative should you want more information about those events.



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Instructional Opportunities via PBS

PDE has partnered in recent weeks with the statewide leads for the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) to offer communities with limited internet access use of instructional programming that is being broadcast by all of Pennsylvania's PBS affiliates. Each PBS affiliate is providing instructional blocks of programming targeted to different grade spans, varying by region, and began March 30: <https://www.learningathomepa.org>

COVID-19 Related Updates

Governor Wolf and/or Secretary Levine provide daily updates on COVID-19. These updates are usually at 2 p.m. and are live-streamed [here](#).

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) continues to update its COVID-19 guidance page, which is [here](#).

You will also find Centennial specific resources, counseling support information, and an archive of all previous correspondences since we closed on March 13th on our [webpage](#).

Thank you for your efforts and patience as we adjust to this new and very different kind of learning environment. I remain impressed by the positive energy and attitude of our faculty and staff, and of our students, who are courageously tackling our distance learning program.

Please continue to be strong, kind, and united against COVID-19,

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