

Dear PPS Students and Families,

We are in the midst of an unprecedented public health crisis in our community, with COVID-19 forcing us to alter our lives and livelihoods in significant ways, including the extended closure of our schools. Schools are centrally important to students, families, educators and communities. Portland Public Schools has focused the last three weeks on protecting our students and staff, and providing access to essential services like meals and mental health support.

We will continue that critical work, and we are now reimagining the educational model from one situated in a classroom, to one that promotes learning virtually. We will make every effort to remain connected to our students and do our best to encourage a continued opportunity to learn from our educators. We ask for your patience as we transition a traditional brick and mortar school experience to one that takes place online and at home.

Below you will find important information regarding our new home-based distance learning program, PPS-HD. We centered this program on care, community and restoring a degree of continuity of learning, and we will answer more questions soon.

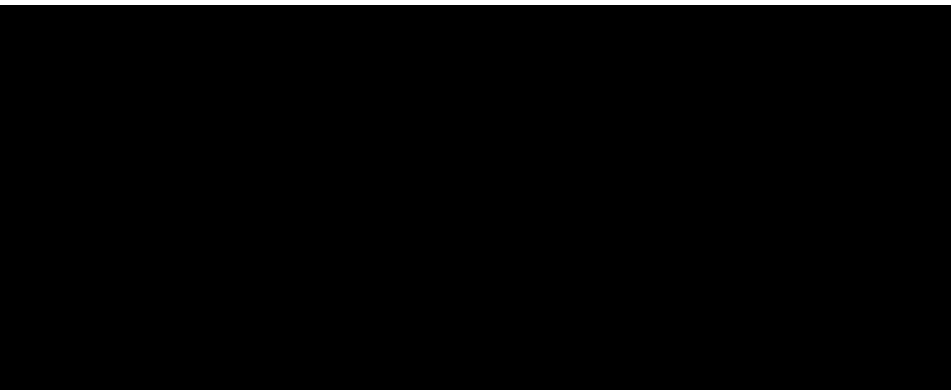
We look forward to connecting with your students in the coming days!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT [PPS.NET/CORONAVIRUS](https://pps.net/coronavirus) AND [PPS.NET/STUDENT](https://pps.net/student)

What is PPS-HD?

PPS-HD is a home-based distance learning program to support students' academic and social-emotional needs as district buildings remain closed due to COVID-19 precautions. It aligns with [guidance](#) from the Oregon Department of Education and provides access to educational materials

	<p>designed to maintain instruction and academic engagement for students using Chromebooks, computers, laptops, tablets, iPads or smartphones.</p> <p>As we transition to distance learning, PPS-HD, like all PPS programming, will be centered on care, community, and continuity of learning. We are also working to provide paper copies of lessons and assignments to our students who do not have digital access.</p>
<p>When does it start?</p>	<p>We have started! This week (3/30-4/3) teachers have been engaged in professional development learning how to best meet the needs of your students in a distance learning environment.</p> <p>Next week (4/6-4/10) teachers will start connecting with your students, if they have not already. On Monday and Tuesday, you can expect emails and invitations from teachers, counselors and administrators connecting with students and going over digital citizenship and expectations; Wednesday and Thursday teachers may begin with lessons, assignments, and virtual class meetings. Full distance learning implementation (daily lessons, interactions with teachers, online activities or projects) with consistent schedules will begin the week of April 13.</p> <p>Throughout this difficult time, please know that as dedicated educators we will always focus on connection and relationships with students as a priority.</p>
<p>What does my student need to do to participate?</p>	<p>To par2 Tm(T)8 134.28-2.9 (ir)11 (2 -3 (n)2.)-2 (tt)-3 (e) l (n)8.16 129.r refqerr0.0</p>



How involved do I have to be at home to support my students' participation?	This depends on the age of your student. Most supplemental activities will be student-led, but some students may benefit from your participation, explanations and encouragement. For students with special needs, you may need to provide more direction and support.
How many hours per day does my student need to be online?	PPS-HD is following the Distance Learning For All Guidelines provided by the Oregon Department of Education. Teacher-led learning will vary across grade levels, and we are finalizing scheduling recommendations now. Suggested online times do not need to happen all at once. They may be broken into shorter time frames as needed. It is recommended that students have plenty of time for "brain breaks" and stretching.

	<p>grades 4-8 with safety protocols in place. Live support and guidance will be made available at pps.net/student.</p> <p>The option to opt out for one-to-one communication between your student and building staff is forthcoming. If you choose to opt out of one-to-one communication, your student will still be able to access their education through distance learning platforms.</p>
Will the at-home program cover everything my teacher would have covered if there was no closure?	<p>PPS-HD will not cover everything that teachers and students would cover typically in a traditional full-schedule classroom environment. While every effort is being made to provide a rich learning opportunity to our students, we also recognize that remote, at-home learning does not replace the experience of a student engaging with the teacher and peers in the classroom. We will do our best to create thoughtful and meaningful experiences for our students. We are focusing on connection with students and providing regular learning and educational engagement. Our teachers are ready to make this unexpected and unprecedented system work well for students, but we will no</p>

	<p>Interpretation services for IEP meetings will be available via phone or video, depending on the language.</p>
<p>My child has a 504 plan. How will accommodation be provided during distance learning?</p>	<p>Your child's teacher will review the necessary accommodation for access and participation in distance learning. Your child's 504 case manager will be available to support school staff in 504 implementation. Interpretation services will be available via phone or video, depending on the language.</p>
<p>My child is an English Language Learner. How will they get services?</p>	<p>Students who are identified to receive English language development services (Title III) will be supported by the ESL teacher to ensure they have a successful experience in remote learning</p>
<p>My student is a high school senior; what do they need to do to be sure to graduate this year?</p>	<p>We are waiting for the state to make some determinations to know our next steps. We will be communicating to seniors and their families when we receive that guidance from the state. In the meantime, we encourage all seniors to be in contact with their teachers, counselors, and administrators.</p>

My student left an item at school. Can they go to school to retrieve it? Not at this time. PPS schools have undergone a deep cleaning and have been

participating?	support@pps.net.
Will students be able to return to school before the end of the school year?	We are all very eager to return to schools. Currently, the Governor's executive order states that the earliest we would return is April 29. We will be in touch as the Governor gives additional direction in the coming days and weeks.
Who do I contact if I have questions about online behavior or safety?	In the same way you would during other times of the year, you may contact your child's teachers or principals with questions or concerns about behavior. As always, you may also report discrimination and/or harassment (including cyberbullying) to