



January 10, 2022

PLSAS Staff and Families,

Upon return from Winter Break, we have experienced a significant increase in COVID-19 case rates which are presenting operational challenges that our district and others across the metro are experiencing.

- 12+% of our staff are absent today.
- In addition to these absences, we have more than 53 (4.5% of staff) open staffing positions in the district.
- Substitute fill rates are approximately 32%.
- From January 3 to January 10, 632 students have been reported absent due to a positive COVID-19 test or are in quarantine due to direct exposure to COVID-19 in their household.
- Over the weekend we announced two classrooms, one at Five Hawks and one at Glendale, have moved to Distance Learning for this week due to the high number of COVID-19 case rates in those classrooms.
- Several buildings are nearing 5% student absences due to COVID-19.

Distance Learning

Staffing shortages continue to present significant challenges to the day-to-day operations of our schools. Our administrators and staff have been working hard to fill in wherever needed but continued absences, combined with staffing and substitute shortages have left us with operational challenges we cannot overcome at this time. As a result, we have consulted with the MN Department of Health as well as Scott County Public Health **and have made the decision to shift to Distance Learning beginning Thursday, January 13.**

The updated school schedule for grades E-12 is as follows:

- Wednesday, January 12 - Distance Learning Planning and PD Day for Staff (No school for K-12, ECFE, ECSE and Circle of Friends Preschool)
- Thursday, January 13 - Distance Learning
- Friday, January 14 - Distance Learning
- Monday, January 17 - No school, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Tuesday, January 18 - Distance Learning

Next steps

We will communicate our January 19 learning model status by noon on Tuesday, January 18. We believe these Distance Learning days, along with the existing non-student day on January 17, will allow students and staff who are out due to illness to isolate and recover, and provide an opportunity for eligible students and staff to get a vaccine booster. PLSAS will be working to acquire more testing kits and PPE for staff.

Tomorrow, principals will ensure students bring their device home. Principals will be communicating specific Distance Learning schedule details with students and families by Wednesday. After that, please reach out to your child's teacher if you have specific questions about their Distance Learning schedule.

Kids' Company School-Age Care

- Families currently registered for **Wednesday, January 12** Early Release afternoon care will be able to register for modified hours at their current school site for an additional fee. Registrations for before school will be removed. Preschool childcare will be closed.
- **Thursday, January 13, Friday, January 14 and Tuesday, January 18:** Current, contracted families can register for care and Distance Learning support at either Hamilton Ridge or Redtail Ridge for Thursday, January 13, Friday, January 14 and Tuesday, January 18 on a first come, first served basis for an additional fee and modified hours. A limited number of openings will be available depending on the number of staff available. Preschool childcare will be closed.

- Kids' Company and preschool child care will be **closed on Monday, January 17**, as scheduled.
- Kids' Company will be communicating registration details via email.

Athletics/Activities

Athletics, activities and events will continue as scheduled. Additional information may be provided by coaches and advisors.

Child Nutrition Services

PLSAS LakerMarketplace will be offering free, curbside Meals to Go while the district is in the Distance Learning Model. Curbside meals will be 3 days worth of free breakfast and lunches, available for pickup on Friday, January 14, 2022 from 10am-12pm at three locations.

Meal pick-up locations are determined by the first letter of your student's last name:

Twin Oaks Last Name Begins with: A - K

Jeffers Pond Last Name Begins with: L - P

WestWood Last Name Begins with: Q - Z

Please complete the following order form by **Thursday at 3:00 p.m.** Order form for ALL students/children, ages 18 and under: <https://forms.gle/Eyu2zYudQW8qcD8t5>

Thank you for your flexibility and support as we continue to navigate quickly changing circumstances.

Be well,
Teri Staloch, Ed. D.
Superintendent