

Good afternoon Pershing families,

I hope you are all doing well. I can imagine there are a range of emotions and feelings you might be experiencing right now, and feeling overwhelmed may be one of those. As we approach the 2020-2021 school year please know we are all here for you. Please know this email contains A LOT of information, we hope that it will help you know and understand what this school year will look like for our Pershing scholars.

If you have any questions about the LPS return to school plan or any questions regarding specific plans to Pershing, please do not hesitate to call or email so we can answer your question(s).

Here are some guiding principles we are following per our LPS pandemic procedures:

1. Students will stay in cohorts (homeroom classroom group) to the extent that their educational needs allow.
2. Students will have access to individual supplies (please do not bring personal school supplies to school, these are great things to keep at home).
3. Anything shared (spaces or supplies) will be cleaned with disinfectant or will be set aside for 72 hours before use.
4. We will make plans for school to avoid bottle-necking and large gatherings.
5. Students will wear face coverings while on school property except during designated times (lunch, recess, specific PE, face covering breaks).
6. Students will wash hands or sanitize hands frequently throughout the day, including before and after lunch and recess.
7. Students will be taught and practice social distancing to the extent possible during the school day.
8. At this time, LPS is restricting visitors and volunteers in all schools.

Below are the main categories of the school day and a brief description of what the changes/safety measures will look like at Pershing:

Before/Arrival- IMPORTANT! This process will be slightly different than in years past.

- **Students eating breakfast should arrive between 7:45 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Students eating breakfast will need to be dropped off at Door 2** (per Pershing's usual arrival plan). Students should NOT arrive at school any earlier than 7:45 a.m. to ensure supervision and proper social distancing is maintained.
- During breakfast students will be socially distanced and will arrive with their face covering on, remove it to eat breakfast, and put it back on when they are finished. Students will need to clear their area and move out of the cafeteria to the gym for morning arrival.
- **Students who are NOT eating breakfast should arrive at 8:00 a.m and not before. Students NOT eating breakfast will need to be dropped off at Door 1** (this is different from Pershing's usual arrival plan). At 8:00 a.m., students NOT eating breakfast will enter through Door 1 in a single file line and sit along the hall, with masks, distanced from peers, and in grade level cohorts.
- Our arrival traffic flow will remain the same. Even if you are dropping your student(s) off at Door 1, please remain in the drop off lane, heading west down Judson, do not pull out and go around the drop off lane, this will create a very unsafe situation at the intersection of 63rd & Judson. Cones and signs will designate when it is safe to drop students off at Door 1.

Families are welcome to continue to use the cut out past Door 1 to pull in and assist students out of their vehicles.

- The drop off lane should be quick, please do your best to have your student ready to exit out the passenger side of the vehicle, closest to the school sidewalk. Please make sure you or your drop off person remains in their vehicle in the drop off lane, to make the process as quick and safe as possible.
- Students may be dropped off along 63rd, on the west side of the building, students can walk to Door 2 if they are eating breakfast or Door 1 if they are NOT eating breakfast.
- Any student who enters Door 2 will go to the cafeteria so we do not have congestion and cross traffic in the halls. The same goes for Door 1. If a student is dropped off at Door 1, they will not go to breakfast. Instead they will wait at their grade level's designated spot inside the building.
- As you likely know, LPS requires face coverings when on LPS property, this would mean that all students should come to school with a face covering on. Any adult that is walking students onto school property should also have a face covering on. LPS will provide up to two student masks. We will be outside on the first day of school to pass them out to any student who arrives without one.
- Since LPS is not allowing visitors in the building during yellow/orange, parents are not able to come into the building in the morning. Please practice saying goodbye at the car or sidewalk and we will be ready to help your child(ren) get to their classroom or arrival location safe and sound.
- Please remember that one of the guiding principles for safety is to avoid gathering in groups. In the past, on the first day of school, some families have taken pictures or waited with their child(ren) outside. We ask that you take care of your pictures prior to our first day of school and say goodbye at the car or sidewalk.
- If your child(ren) is participating in CLC before/after school program, the CLC door has moved to the back of the building. **CLC arrival and pick up door will be Door 4**, which is located right outside the gym on the north side of the building. Please make sure if you are dropping your student off at CLC in the morning that you use Door 4. CLC will have staff at the door and will be following their arrival guidelines.

After School- We will have some minor changes to our dismissal.

Grade levels will dismiss and walk to the following locations:

- **Kindergarten, Miss Brooke, & Mrs. Engler will dismiss out Door 15.** Kindergarten will line up on their colored lines on the basketball court right outside Door 15. Miss Brooke & Mrs. Engler will walk students through the south gate/fenced area and line up along the sidewalk at the bottom of the stairs.
- **Mrs. Galloway & Mrs. Obrecht will dismiss out Door 1** (Main Entrance). Students will walk to their colored lines with their teachers on the sidewalk leading up to the school.
- **Second Grade will dismiss out Door 2** and walk to their colored lines along the sidewalk leading up to Door 2.
- **Fifth grade, Miss Scheffler & Mrs. Sorenson will dismiss out Door 10 & 11** (back side of the building). Fifth grade will walk students on the sidewalk along the playground fence on 64th Street. Miss Scheffler & Mrs. Sorenson will walk students to Gladstone and dismiss them along that street.

- **Third grade, Miss Bergman & Mr. Jolliffe** will dismiss to the north of the portable by the playground structure. There is a gate entrance/exit right there for families and students to use off of 65th street.
- **CLC students will dismiss from Door 4**
- If you plan to walk up to the building/sidewalk to meet your child(ren), you need to park in an appropriate neighborhood street spot, and remember to wear your face covering. All families walking up to the building will be asked to wait by your car or behind the fences and signs to allow for distancing during our dismissal. Teachers will make eye contact with you and dismiss your child one at a time. The first few days can take some time, so please be patient.
- After school, siblings will NOT be able to walk through the building to meet each other, they will need to walk outside and around the building.
- Our Kindergarten through Fifth Grade Teachers will review after school plans with students and ensure students get to daycare vans, the bus, CLC, the front and back of the building to meet families, or ensure they are on their way to walking home. Staff will assist with crosswalks and ask that families use the crosswalks to model safe street crossing. Teachers will remain with their class until 3:00 and then will accompany students to Door 1 to wait for their ride.

Lunch

- We will keep students with their homeroom classes and this will apply to lunch as well. Students will walk to lunch as a class and sit at tables with their classmates. We will limit the number of students seated at our hexagon tables to ensure safe distancing. Once students are at their tables with their lunch, they will remove their face covering to eat and will put their face covering back on once they are finished eating.
- Since supervisors in the lunchroom will be with students while the students are not wearing face coverings, we will be more careful to maintain our distance. The adults supervising will keep face coverings on throughout lunch. With this in mind, it will be very helpful if you make sure cold lunches can be opened and eaten independently.

Recess

- Students will go to recess prior to their lunch time in all grade levels. A change this year, classrooms will need to remain in cohorts, so students will enjoy recess with their classmates from their homeroom each day. We have created a rotation of recess zones for each classroom cohort.
- Each grade level will have their own recess equipment which will be sanitized after every use. During recess, students will be allowed to remove their face covering because they are outside and social distancing is possible.

In the Classroom

- There will be some changes to our instruction routines to allow for safety. Students will have the same curriculum experiences that they would have in any given year. Some instructional pacing will be adjusted to allow time for our new safety routines and procedures.
- Students will remain with their homeroom classmates for most of the day. In the classroom, each student will have their own supplies to use. Students will be taught about

safety measures such as hand washing, face coverings, social distancing, monitoring and reporting how you feel (symptom checking).

- Each teacher will have a process and routine for taking face covering breaks throughout the day. During these breaks, students will remain at least 6 feet away from each other.
- Each classroom has a sink for hand washing and filling water bottles. Students will be provided with one water bottle at the beginning of the school year. We will not have replacements. Please remember to send your child with their water bottle each day. The only liquid that can be kept in water bottles is water. Please do not add flavoring or colors to the water in student's water bottles. Drinking fountains throughout the building are turned off for safety.

Specials

- This year our specialists will come to the students in their homeroom classroom for special's instruction, with the exception of P.E. On P.E. days, the class will go to P.E. with Mr. Wendelin either in the gym or outside, weather permitting. Your child's teacher will communicate their classroom's specials schedule with you so that you know what special is on what day. You can also find our special rotation day in the purple Pershing Handbook.

Student Supports

- During the day, students will continue to need and receive different kinds of support for their learning, behavior and/or social emotional well-being. Students who receive support from our special education teachers, English language learner teachers, interventionists, speech/language pathologist, counselor, social worker, or our school psychologist will continue to have these supports. To the extent possible, students will remain with other students from their homeroom (cohort) as they work with these support teachers. If this is not possible, support teachers will ensure social distancing of 6 feet during the support time.

Virtual Open House

- Lincoln Public Schools have given us the directive that all schools must plan for a virtual Open House rather than meeting in person. Your child's teacher will provide you with a short video giving students a tour of the classroom and a quick introduction of themselves.

Remote Learning Opt In

- While we are in yellow or orange on the Lancaster County COVID-19 Risk Dial any family who chooses, can opt in to remote learning. This is flexible and can change as families choose. After July 31st, the remote learning form will need to be completed by the school if a family decides to opt in to remote learning. Once the form is completed, we will work to gather the needed materials for you to pick up and the teacher will send a weekly schedule. This may or may not be your child's assigned homeroom teacher.
- Different than 4th quarter, the remote learning is LIVE zooming in to the classroom on a schedule that follows the grade's school day.
- If needed, your child will also receive any support that would have been provided had they been at school (special education, ELL, interventions, etc), but this would be done via Zoom on a schedule.

- Grading and attendance will be the same for Zoom In learners as it is for In Person learners. Teachers will take attendance and students will be counted absent or tardy based on their participation in Zoom instruction.
- If a student will not be on the Zoom for any given day, the parents would need to enter the absence into ParentVue or call the Pershing office to report that as an absence, just as you would for in person learning.
- These absences and tardies will count in our attendance process as we follow the laws regarding mandatory attendance. We ask that you give us time to transition back to In Person Learning if you so choose. Similarly, if you wish to opt into Zoom In learning, we ask that you give us time to prepare materials for your student to attend from home. The form to opt into remote learning clarifies expectations of the teacher, the parent and the child during remote learning.

Visitors & Volunteers

- Only approved LPS staff/mentors, Teammates and therapists will be allowed in the building during the day. Parents/Guardians, wearing face coverings, will be allowed at school for planned meetings or to drop off items in the main office as needed. At this time, no parent volunteers are allowed and parents/visitors cannot eat lunch with their student(s) or visit classrooms. During the day, if you choose, you can call the office for your child and we will walk them out to you this year. It is important that we limit the number of people that interact at school.

PPTO

- Since the district is restricting volunteers and activities, many of our PPTO events will be limited or cancelled. This includes all on site activities, regularly scheduled meetings and classroom events.
- This year our fundraiser will be completely online, more information will be coming home regarding our Online Fundraiser.

You did it! You made it to the end. Thank you for being so amazing. Our staff are excited to begin another Relentless year with you and your family. Please remember you are welcome to email or call with any questions or concerns you might have. More information will be shared as plans unfold.

Have a fantastic evening!

Jamie Cook, Principal