



PENNCREST

EMPOWERING LIFE-LONG LEARNERS

March 31, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are in the midst of an unprecedented national crisis and worldwide COVID-19 pandemic which has resulted in the closure of our schools as a means of protecting each of us and preventing the spread of the virus. We hope all of your family remains safe and healthy in these difficult times. PENNCREST School District is committed to making a good faith effort in providing education to all students while school operations are impacted by the pandemic.

In response to the closures, the Pennsylvania General Assembly has required schools to develop continuity of education plans for providing ongoing instruction to our students. When a school is closed because of COVID-19 response efforts and provides educational services to the general student population, it must ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, students identified as gifted be provided with services identified in their GIEP. In other words, our teachers will be responsible to uphold their obligation in following student GIEPs to the greatest extent possible and to the best of their ability. These continuity education plans are for providing services to the extent possible when normal school operations are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic emergency. The school is committed to resuming full implementation of your child's GIEP and will discuss the need for any additional services that may be required when our physical locations reopen.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, PENNCREST School District will provide services to students by multiple means including: online/internet and virtual assignments and support, providing hard copy packets, email, and phone calls. In addition, your child's gifted teacher will be responsible to work closely with you and the general education teachers to ensure the necessary support and instruction is being provided. They will be in contact with you to provide resources and optional activities to be worked on during this time should you choose to do so. All of these actions are necessitated by the requirements of social distancing and stay-at-home orders due to the COVID-19 pandemic, meaning that in-person services cannot be provided at this time.

We are not proposing to revise your child's GIEP at this time, but rather we will continue to work with your child's GIEP and Notice of Recommended Assignment (NORA) in the delivery of optional enrichment and review activities to the greatest extent possible.

We remain hopeful that we will be able to return to school at some point this year. However, if your child has a plan review coming up, we do plan to continue GIEP reviews on their normal schedule. Due to the social distancing requirements, those meetings will be held virtually. If you have a scheduled GIEP meeting for your child, you will be contacted prior to the scheduled meeting and provided with a link and phone number giving you the ability to access and participate in the meeting. We trust you

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understand the need for these alternative arrangements. The circumstances are not ideal, but we ask that you bear with us.

The pandemic has presented us with an emergency situation, and this continuity of education plan will remain in place until we are able to resume normal school operations. At that time, we will review each student's situation and whether the disruption of the pandemic response requires programmatic changes. If there are questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Patti Fiely, Director of Student Services by email pfiely@penncrest.org or phone (814) 337-1600 ext. 1625.

Sincerely,

Patti Fiely
Director of Student Services
(814) 337-1600 ext. 1626
pfiely@penncrest.org