

PUSD *Distance Learning* Portal

For Parents, Students, and Staff – Spring 2020

Introduction

Welcome to the Paradise Unified School District's *Distance Learning* portal, developed to provide information and resources to our parents, students, and staff while at home during the mandated Shelter-in-Place and School Closure orders.

With PUSD's school campuses now closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year, student learning will continue to occur at home through the end of the school year. We invite you to navigate this site for information and resources in support of learning at home success.



As a public school system, Paradise Unified School District strives to ensure an equitable and engaging learning experience for all of our student learners. Our community has suffered tremendously between the Camp Fire and now COVID-19; however, there is nothing that PUSD staff, students, parents, and stakeholders cannot overcome.

Please know that we are aware of how stressful things can be during this time. Parents, consider yourself your child's coach. Don't battle with your children about doing their work...encourage it! We recognize that these are challenging times. Our awesome teachers are the experts at teaching; however, the least amount of lost learning can only help your child get back on track once we are back to physical school. Learning at home is *not* an attempt to replicate the entirety of the in-person, classroom-based learning experience. Again, it is designed to alleviate as much lost learning as possible during this time. Please know that every teacher is available every day during this time to help you and/or your student.

Overview

The Paradise Unified School District approach is to provide families and students with academic resources and supports that will enable quality learning to continue for all PUSD students while recognizing the following:

- Different student and family situations mean the experience of learning at home will vary across the households on the Ridge
- The approach to either online learning (e.g. Google Classroom), paper work packets, (or any combination thereof), is designed to be accessible and equitable to all PUSD students. It is intended to provide a level of flexibility that enables continuing learning within any particular household context
- We **STRONGLY** encourage parents and students to communicate with their teachers on a regular basis. Please let the school site know if you are in need of any resources, academic materials, tutoring, etc.

Student Roles and Responsibilities

- Get into a daily routine at home. Set specific times as “school time”.
- Find a space in your home where you can participate in live online learning. If possible, sit at a table, and make that “your daily work area.”
- Review assignments and then work to complete and submit them.
- Check daily/weekly for Zoom sessions and office hours that your teachers are facilitating. Be prepared by having your work/lessons ready and be “on time” for those sessions.
- Take pride in the work you are doing by practicing academic honesty.
- All of your teachers are available to help you. Communicate with your teachers if you need help with your work or you are going to miss a deadline for work due.
- Follow all PUSD **Student Use of Technology Equipment** policies including online etiquette expectations.
- Attend to your own needs and well-being.



Parent/Guardian Roles and Responsibilities:

In addition to providing love and care as always to support your child's well-being, especially in this challenging time, parents/guardians are being asked to take on the role of a learning coach. This includes greater involvement in and responsibility for your child's successful learning at home.

To ensure that learning at home occurs in a way that respects all PUSD students and families, their rights and privacy, it's important that parents/guardians both support their children to participate appropriately in learning at home interactions and comply with policies and regulations governing participation in the education program provided by PUSD.

Parent/guardian responsibilities include:

- Monitoring student behavior using technology
- Ensuring your child abides by the PUSD **Student Use of Technology Agreement** they (and one of their parents/guardians) signed at the beginning of the school year. This is especially important given the expanded use of technology platforms and tools supporting home learning
- Reviewing and responding to teacher, site and district communications
- Supporting your child's use of technology and helping them navigate online platforms, content and interactions
- Monitoring your child's engagement with and completion of work
- Reaching out to your child's teacher as needed for support via their email or contact the school site principal for additional contact information

Staff Roles and Responsibilities:

PUSD teachers, case managers, principals, and staff care about all our students and families, their well-being, and their continued learning especially now in this challenging time. Accordingly, PUSD teachers and staff will keep checking in on their students during the remainder of school closure.

Throughout the duration of Distance Learning, PUSD teachers and staff will:

- Continue to work their full contract time to facilitate student learning and fulfill their professional duties
- Engage students in learning through standards-based assignments, which may include new material, review, and enrichment activities
- Utilize appropriate tech platforms to provide digital content and resources for student learning; where appropriate, prepare and provide physical materials as needed to support student learning
- Maintain connections and engage with all their students through various modes of communication and interaction (e.g, email, messaging, video meetings, etc.)
- Check in with students a minimum of once per week during home learning
- Communicate regularly with parents
- Respond to student/parent input and requests
- Teachers are generally available Monday through Friday between 8:30 and 3:00 to respond to email
- Teachers *may* choose to respond to parent emails after hours or on weekends, however, there should be no standing expectation of after-hours communication from teachers/staff

Principal and District Administration Roles & Responsibilities:

Paradise Unified School District leadership and staff are aligned in our efforts to continue to serve and support our students, families, and staff during this extraordinary time.

In response to the profound challenges presented by this coronavirus (COVID-19) episode, PUSD district leaders and staff are performing new and expanded roles and managing an increased scope of responsibilities, including:

- Monitoring COVID-19 response conditions, including health, safety and educational directives affecting district operations and programs; adjusting district operations and programs as necessary to comply with said directives
- Communicating key informational directives to PUSD staff, families, and our community on a regular basis
- Implementing and supporting our modified approach to providing instruction and supporting learning through our Distance Learning program
- Engaging with our community stakeholders regarding PUSD's COVID-19 response, including our Distance Learning approach to supporting continued student learning
- Support teachers in following up with students who are not engaging in Distance Learning or may need other resources

Grading Policies

Based on the guidelines provided by the California Department of Education (CDE), Paradise Unified School District has developed the following policies for grading. [CDE guidelines](#) provide direction and ensure that grading policies *hold students harmless* for their spring grades during the COVID-19 Shelter-in-Place directive.

PUSD Elementary Schools:

1. For grades TK-6, all standard-based marks will be moved from second-trimester to the third-trimester column on report cards. These scores were based on what the student had learned to that point in the school year. There will be, at the teacher's discretion, the ability to increase those scores based on the latest and best evidence collected by student assessment. Students standards-based scores will not decrease.

For sixth grade, students' second trimester grades will be transferred to the third trimester column on the students' report cards. Students' grades may increase due to student work completion, participation, assessment scores, etc.

2. There will be a new row added on the report cards for ELA, math and other subjects to reflect participation and student engagement during distance learning (Outstanding= 80-100% work completed, Satisfactory=60-79% work completed, or Needs Improvement=59-0% work completed,. Teachers will use this mark to show work completion taking into consideration adaptations, accommodations and multiple opportunities and formats to complete work and participate in online meetings with teachers and distance learning formats. Note: All students have been offered Chromebooks for home use and hot spots to assist with connectivity. Please contact your school administrator if you are still having difficulty with how work is being presented to your student so that adjustments can be made accordingly.

3. The following is a list of the recommended time for students to be involved with school work(this includes daily reading, packet work, iReady and online assignments and meetings with teachers):

Grade Level	TK/K	First Grade	Second Grade	Third Grade	Fourth Grade	Fifth Grade	Sixth Grade
Minutes of Daily School Work	60	120	150	180	180	180	180

Please work with your student, their teacher and any other school personnel to insure student's continued learning. The shift to distance learning has been difficult for our teachers and staff. The greatest joy in working in a school is being with the students. We are counting on you at this time to be full partners with teachers in your students' continued progress. Please know that your mental health and that of your student should take priority over work completion. Here are some socioemotional and mental health [resources](#) for students and families. _

Paradise Jr/Sr High School:

7th and 8th Grading and Distance Learning Policy is as follows:

1. If a student completes a course with a D- or above, the student may elect to receive Credit (CR) or a letter grade.
2. If a student receives a grade below a D-, they may elect to receive a NM instead of a letter grade.
3. Teachers will continue to assign and grade school work. They will continue to utilize Aeries to record grades for all 7th and 8th grade students.

Please remember that Middle School is designed to prepare students for High School and beyond. We highly encourage All Students to complete their course work to the best of their ability during our distance learning program in order to academically prepare them for their future.

EVERY student has the opportunity to raise their grade by continuing to complete assignments, working with their teachers, and/or participating in the Zoom Sessions that are offered.

We highly recommend that students make contact with their teachers via email, phone, or Zoom Sessions. We are here to help and ensure that every student is successful during this time.

By May 15th, 2020, teachers will have two way communication with all parents whose child may be receiving a failing grade in their class. In the event a teacher is unable to reach a parent or guardian, the teacher will give that information on to the Administrator. Part of this conversation will include how a student may be able to receive a passing grade or credit for the class.

9th through 12th grading and Distance Learning Policy is as follows:

1. Students who were receiving a letter grade of A, B, or C, prior to school closure (March 13th), have the option to have their grades reported in letter format (A, B, or C) or have their grades reported as Credit (CR). For example, if a student was receiving an A at the time of school closure, and the student's grade falls to a C during distance learning, the student can choose to have the letter grade of C on his/her report card or receive a CR on the report card.
2. Students who were receiving a letter grade of D, prior to school closure, have the opportunity to raise their grade to an A, B, or C, and have their grade reported in letter format or receive a CR. If their letter grade remains a D or lower, the students will receive the letter grade of D.
3. Students who were receiving a letter grade of F prior to school closure have the opportunity to raise their grade. If the students raise their grade to an A, B, or C, the students can receive the letter grade or choose to receive CR. If the students raise their grade to a D, the students will receive the letter grade of D. If the students do not raise their grade above an F, the students will receive a No Mark (NM) on their final report card.
4. Students will need to inform their teachers by May 25th that they would like to receive a letter grade for their classes. If the teacher is not informed, the students will receive the grade of CR or NM depending on their situation.
5. Teachers will continue to assign and grade school work. They will continue to utilize Aeries to record grades for all 9th through 12th grade students.

Please remember that High School is designed to prepare students for college and or careers. We highly encourage All Students to complete their course work to the best of their ability during our distance learning program in order to academically prepare them for their future.

EVERY student has the opportunity to raise their grade by continuing to complete assignments, working with their teachers, and/or participating in the Zoom Sessions that are offered.

We highly recommend that students make contact with their teachers via email, phone, or Zoom Sessions. We are here to help and ensure that every student is successful during this time.

By May 15th, 2020, teachers will have two way communication with all parents whose child may be receiving a failing grade in their class. In the event a teacher is unable to reach a parent or guardian, the teacher will give that information on to the Administrator. Part of this conversation will include how a student may be able to receive a passing grade or credit for the class.

Ridgeview High School:

1. The New 4th Quarter Grading Period began on March 16.
2. New transfers from PJSHS were assigned credit upon transfer as of March 13.
3. Teachers are giving assignments on a weekly basis on Google Classroom or paper packets.
4. Credit will be assigned by the amount of work turned in on a regular basis. Grades will be Credit (C) or No Mark (NM). Letter grades will be given to students upon their request, students must notify staff in advance of the last day of the quarter.
5. Teachers will continue to communicate assignment expectations and will assign credits earned to students who turn in completed work.

Please remember that High School is designed to prepare students for college and or careers. We highly encourage All Students to complete their course work to the best of their ability during our distance learning program in order to academically prepare them for their future.

EVERY student has the opportunity to raise their grade by continuing to complete assignments, working with their teachers, and/or participating in the Zoom Sessions that are offered.

We highly recommend that students make contact with their teachers via email, phone, or Zoom Sessions. We are here to help and ensure that every student is successful during this time.

By May 15th, 2020, teachers will have two way communication with all parents whose child may be receiving a failing grade in their class. In the event a teacher is unable to reach a parent or guardian, the teacher will give that information on to the Administrator. Part of this conversation will include how a student may be able to receive a passing grade or credit for the class.

Paradise eLearning Academy (Full-Time and/or Part-Time Students):

1. Students who received a letter grade of A, B, or C on their 3rd Quarter Progress Report have the option to have their grades reported in letter format (A, B, or C) or have their grades reported as Credit (CR). Students will need to inform their teachers that they would like to receive a letter grade for their classes. If the teacher is not informed, the students will receive the grade of CR.
2. Students who received a letter grade of D on their 3rd Quarter Progress Report have the opportunity to raise their grade and follow option 1. If their letter grade remains a D, the student will receive the letter grade of D. If the students raise their grades, they will need to inform their teachers that they would like to receive a letter grade for their classes. If the teacher is not informed, the students will receive the grade of CR.
3. Students who were receiving a letter grade of F prior to school closure have the opportunity to raise their grade. If the students raise their grade to an A, B, or C, the students can receive the letter grade or choose to receive CR. If the students raise their grade to a D, the students will receive the letter grade of D. If the students do not raise their grade above an F, the students will receive a No Mark (NM) on their final report card.
4. Students will need to inform their teachers by May 25th that they would like to receive a letter grade for their classes. If the teacher is not informed, the students will receive the grade of CR or NM depending on their situation.
5. Teachers will continue to assign and grade school work.

EVERY e-Learning student has the opportunity to raise their grade (all the way to any A) by continuing to complete assignments, working with their teachers, participating in the Zoom Sessions that are offered daily, and extra credit opportunities.

We highly recommend that students make contact with their teachers via email, phone, or Zoom Sessions. We are here to help and ensure that every student is successful during this time.

By May 15th, 2020, teachers will have two way communication with all parents whose child may be receiving a failing grade in their class. In the event a teacher is unable to reach a parent or guardian, the teacher will give that information on to the Administrator. Part of this conversation will include how a student may be able to receive a passing grade or credit for the class.

Family Counseling/Resources:

- All PUSD school sites have social/emotional counselors available via telephone, Zoom, etc. These are the same counselors that were on site prior to distance learning. Please contact your school site principal if you need assistance with contacting these counselors.
- Butte County Behavioral Health is available for family resources, walk-in crisis, risk assessments, and more. They can be reached at <https://www.buttecounty.net/behavioralhealth/> or by calling 800.334.6622 or 530.891.2810

Additional Health & Well-Being Resources

- Click here for a [Parent's Guide to Talking to Children about COVID-19](#)
- Click here for [Covid-19 Video and resources for kids](#)
- Click here for the [7 Step Prevention/Coronavirus Awareness](#)
- Click here for [Care for the Caregivers/Parents and Teachers: Tips for Families and Educators during COVID-19](#)
- [The National Alliance on Mental Illness](#) provides useful tips on taking care of yourself, understanding how stress affects you, protecting your physical health, learning how to recharge, and much more!
- With the ever-changing information around the COVID-19 pandemic, many people are experiencing an increase in stress and anxiety. [This article](#) offers tips on coping with stress.
- [Challenge Success](#) provides support to parents by giving them the tools to help their children regain their balance, strengthen their sense of self, increase their motivation and critical thinking skills, and learn how to deal effectively with the inevitable challenges of life.
- Explore how mindfulness and meditation can help with feelings of anxiety and reducing stress. Learn how to meditate with anxiety and become mindful of the present moment with this useful [guide](#).
- This list of [15 Apps](#) will help you stay healthy during self-isolation.
- [Healthline](#) provides strategies to deal with anxiety and anger associated with the COVID-19 outbreak, and proposes ideas of ways to stay connected during quarantine.
- This [article](#) explains the mental health implications that this global health pandemic can cause and provides several coping strategies.