



## Important Update Regarding the Start of Hybrid Instruction

*Tuesday, February 23, 2021*

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers:

We hope this message finds you and your families healthy and well. We are writing with an important update regarding the planned start of Hybrid Instruction at PFPCS, as well as an update on our Spring Break.

### Updated Timeline for the Start of Hybrid Instruction & New Spring Break Dates

Please find below the updated timeline for the start of Hybrid Instruction. **Please also note that Spring Break for all students has been moved to the week of March 22nd.**

As you know, as part of our commitment to the health and safety of our staff, students, and families, PFPCS will not return to any in-person learning until all staff have received the vaccine or have had the opportunity to receive the vaccine. The vast majority of our staff members have received the first dose of the vaccine. They will receive their second dose by mid-March and will be considered “fully vaccinated” two weeks after this.

We have always planned to be fully virtual for the week following Spring Break, in the event that any members of our school community travel or gather with others. Therefore, we have made the difficult decision to move Spring Break to the week of March 22nd, in order to allow us to phase in more grades for Hybrid Instruction during the month of April.

Date	Return to School Update
Week of 3/22/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Spring Break (School Closed)</li> </ul>
Friday, 4/2/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Good Friday (School Closed)</li> </ul>
Monday, 4/5/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● First day of Hybrid Instruction for grades K-2</li> </ul>
Monday, 4/12/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● First Day of Hybrid Instruction for Grades 3-6</li> </ul>
Monday, 4/19/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● First Day of Hybrid Instruction for Grades 7-8 <i>Contingent upon the Incidence Rate/Percent Positivity in Philadelphia being aligned with PDE/DOH recommendations.</i></li> </ul>

We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience that these updated dates may cause. We truly appreciate your patience and understanding.



## Next Steps for Hybrid Instruction

Families who have selected Hybrid Instruction will receive more information in the coming weeks regarding:

- **Transportation:** Eligible students in grades 1-6 will be assigned to the school bus and eligible students in grades 7-8 will be issued SEPTA Transpasses.
- **Hybrid Schedule:** We will send you your student's assigned days (Monday and Tuesday OR Wednesday and Thursday). All siblings will be assigned to the same day.
- **Uniforms:** While PFPCS' uniform policy has not changed and will be enforced next school year, students will not be required to wear uniforms during Hybrid Instruction this year.
- **Save the Date! Virtual Family Orientations:** All Hybrid students and parents will be asked to attend a Virtual Orientation in order to learn more about Hybrid Instruction and our expectations for students. If you cannot attend on the date your student's grade is scheduled for, you may attend one of the other dates.
  - **Grades K-2:** Monday, March 15th from 6:00-7:00 PM
  - **Grades 3-6:** Wednesday, March 17th from 6:00-7:00 PM
  - **Grades 7-8:** Thursday, March 18th from 6:00-7:00 PM

## Update Regarding the PSSA Exams

The PSSA Exams are scheduled to begin in late April. The Pennsylvania Department of Education has not canceled the exams as they did last year. Our understanding is that all testing would need to take place at PFPCS. We are awaiting guidance from the state regarding how testing will be conducted, including for those students who have opted to remain 100% Virtual. We will communicate all updates to you as we get them.

## 100% Virtual Instruction

There will be slight modifications to the daily Virtual Schedules, both for students who have opted to remain 100% Virtual as well as for Hybrid students on their virtual days. Teachers will communicate the updated daily schedules directly to students and parents in late March.

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Finally, please note that families will not be able to switch from Virtual Instruction to Hybrid Instruction. However, families will be able to switch from Hybrid Instruction to 100% Virtual Instruction if they choose to. Thank you, as always, for your support and partnership during these extraordinary times. We wish you and your families good health.

Sincerely,

Corey Dwyer, M.S.Ed  
Principal



## Health and Safety Measures at PFPCS

- We have installed a walk-through temperature scanner at two entrances to the building. All staff and students will have their temperatures screened immediately upon entering the lobby. Staff and students will self-monitor for symptoms prior to arriving to the school building.
- We have purchased 50+ mountable air purifiers with Medical Grade True HEPA filters, of various sizes. Each classroom, common area, and student and staff bathroom will be equipped with an air purifier.
- To-date, we have invested \$48,500 into our existing HVAC system through Elliott-Lewis, which has upgraded all existing MERV-8 filters to MERV-13 filters; installed an iWave-C Needle Point Bipolar Ionization device in each air handler unit; checked all exhaust fans in classrooms, offices, and bathrooms, where applicable; measured the Supply-Air CFM (cubic foot per minute), Return-Air CFM and the Outside Air CFM, and calculated the percentage of Outside-Air and Air Changes per hour for each classroom and office area; cleaned the air coils in 18 units on floors 1-6; rebuilt a suction pump; repaired the trane unit on floor 5; and repaired 4 units on floors 7-8.
- Battery-operated hand sanitizer dispensers have been mounted in each classroom and throughout hallways and common areas. An additional 1-liter dispenser of hand sanitizer will be distributed to each classroom. Each classroom will receive a container of disinfectant wipes. The Principal and the Business Manager will conduct a daily walkthrough of each classroom to ensure adequate supply of sanitizer, wipes, and masks.
- Touchless hand dryers and soap dispensers have been mounted in each bathroom.
- Classroom furniture will be spaced 6+ feet apart, with clear protective shields placed around all student desks. All students will be seated at individual desks. All excess furniture will be removed from classrooms and hallways.
- We have contracted with a new maintenance company, which performed a deep clean of the building in August, and will perform another deep clean prior to staff and students returning. The maintenance company will provide two day porters, who will be on-site throughout the school day, once staff and students return.
- We have upgraded our security camera system to include 80+ cameras that are monitored on-site and remote-monitored via an app. This was done, in part, to allow for increased surveillance of mitigation requirements, such as the wearing of masks around the building, as well as to ensure ongoing surveillance of our PPE stockpile.
- New blinds will be installed in all classrooms.
- All classrooms will be painted prior to students returning, and all interior windows will be cleaned.