



Dr. Brian Otott
Superintendent

May 22, 2020

Important End-of-School-Year Message from Dr. Otott

Dear PCSD Community,

The end of the 2020 school year has arrived, and I think we all can agree that this has been a year like no other! This end-of-year letter includes important information below about summer resources, so please be sure to read it carefully. First, though, I want to start out by extending a most sincere and heartfelt "Thank You!" to the entire PCSD community for rising to the challenge in this difficult time.

- Thank you to the parents who played a vital role in our transition to online digital learning. We could not have done it without your input and your willingness to step up and guide your students as we implemented Digital Learning Days. You embraced the challenges with a positive spirit that helped make the transition a success.
- Thank you to our students who showed remarkable resiliency through this disruption. You continued to learn online despite the disappointments of not being in the company of your friends and teachers, and not being able to participate in the extracurricular activities that are such an important part of your learning experience. I know the wisdom you have gained this spring – through learning to adapt to unforeseen circumstances – will serve you well the rest of your lives.
- Thank you to the teachers who never missed a beat in moving their lessons online. Despite our school buildings being closed, you ensured that learning never stopped in Paulding County. We know how much you missed seeing your students in person, but you are true champions for being able to adjust so quickly and without complaint to make Digital Learning Days successful.



- Thank you to the Nutrition Services workers who have worked tirelessly to ensure that our students stay fed during this health crisis.
- And thank you to all of our hard-working school district employees who have made the assessments and key decisions that have kept operations going, and provided the support our schools, teachers, students and parents have needed throughout this challenging time. Personally, I believe our school district has a lot to be proud of when we look back on the events of spring 2020.

I also want to once again extend my congratulations to the Class of 2020. You are an extraordinary group of young men and young women whose senior year was altered by a most unusual event beyond your control, but you have persevered. As you head into the next phase of your lives, we commend you and salute you. **You are appreciated. You are creative. You are leaders. You are prepared. You are resilient. And you are strong!** Graduation ceremonies will take place June 19-20, and I look forward to seeing all of you then and celebrating your achievements!



Summer Resources

In education we often talk about the “summer slide” that can occur over the break as students inevitably fail to retain some percentage of the knowledge they had gained over the course of the school year. Because the online instruction this spring was such a unique experience, and because we don’t yet have clear data to compare the robustness of virtual instruction to in-person classroom instruction, it is especially important that this summer students are able to retain as much knowledge as possible so they are prepared when they return to school buildings this August.



2019-2020 School Year Wrap Up Letter

Our school district academic team has gathered a wealth of resources that will help keep students well-tuned and motivated heading into the 2020-2021 school year. Be sure to take advantage of this great information that has been compiled in one convenient place here: <https://tinyurl.com/PCSDSummerResources>

That is all for now. Again, I could not be prouder or more thankful for the response shown by the Paulding County School District community since that stretch in mid-March when everything in our lives suddenly changed. Your support is greatly appreciated, and I hope all our students and their families have a safe and enjoyable summer. See you next school year!

Sincerely,

Brian Otott
Superintendent