



# *Peshtigo School District*

Home of the Bulldogs

May 18, 2020

Dear Representative Nygren and Senator Hansen;

I hope this letter finds you, your family, and your colleagues well. Thank you for your leadership through this unprecedented times and the support of the citizens of Wisconsin. We will get through this together.

I would like to provide you with an update from the Peshtigo School District as we address the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Below is a list of what we have been doing:

- All students, families, and staff have remained healthy.
- All students have been participating in remote/virtual instruction since April 1<sup>st</sup>. Teachers and families have worked together to solve issues with the lack of or limited broadband access, technology, and scheduling.
- Up to 500 meals are provided daily with 400 of the meals being delivered to the students' doorstep. Weekend meals are being provided too.
- Alternative plans for the 2020 Graduation Commencement have been created. It will be different, but still special for our graduates and their families.
- Community members, local businesses, and the City of Peshtigo have rallied and raised funds to purchase Class of 2020 Banners to be hung on the city street lights.
- In an effort to help our local economy and take care of our staff we have maintained all employees on our payroll despite a reduction in hours in some cases.
- In addition, we were able to complete amended agreements with contractors to keep bus drivers, classroom aides, and custodians paid during the school closure and the safer at home order. Many of these contracted employees are also community residents and parents to our students.
- Available PPE was donated to the County Health Services to aide their response to the pandemic.

Given the circumstances the response from our staff, families, and community has been extraordinary. The Peshtigo Community is working together to keep moving forward. However, challenges remain as we plan for next school-year. Our plans include:

- Extensive professional-development to improve virtual instruction and assessment.
- Purchasing of mobile hot-spots for students and staff to access broadband services.
- Additional technology purchases of devices, webcams, microphones, etc to help teachers in their efforts.
- Curriculum and student assessment review to identify gaps in learning and when/how to compensate for the loss of learning.
- Building supports for the social-emotional needs of students upon their return or the continuation of virtual learning.

- Creating a flexible calendar to provide the time for students to enjoy the social/learning experiences of field trips, co-curricular activities, and concerts that were lost.
- Developing a plan to keep students, staff, and parents safe on our campus.

As we move forward, I welcome your calls (715-582-3677, 1010) or emails ([raup@peshtigo.k12.wi.us](mailto:raup@peshtigo.k12.wi.us)) so that I can explain our work and answer any questions you may have. I will also provide you with additional updates. Certainly, much work remains as we finish the school year, begin the summer school session, and prepare for the start of the new school year this fall.

Stay well,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. L. Rau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Patrick" and last name "Rau" clearly visible.

Patrick Rau  
Superintendent