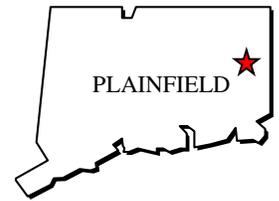




PLAINFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

651 NORWICH ROAD, PLAINFIELD, CT 06374
TEL: (860) 564-6403 FAX: (860) 564-6412



Christi Haskell, BOE Chair

Kenneth R. Di Pietro, Superintendent

August 20, 2018

Dear Parents and Families and Staff:

This letter provides information on the fire damage to Plainfield Memorial School, the restoration/recovery effort, the plan for a temporary relocation of students and staff during the restoration and **the start of the school year.**

Last week a fire damaged an interior section and roof of Plainfield Memorial School. Our first response was to secure the building to protect it from further damage and our current efforts are to clean and restore the school for the return of our students and staff and to find a suitable, alternative location to keep our students and staff together during the recovery process. This letter is being sent to all to inform you of the progress of our efforts and the plans to start the school year.

At the present time, Plainfield Memorial School is secure with the roof protected, the water dried up, the fire damaged area secured, and the cleaning process initiated. The inspection agencies, the insurance company and a restoration company are all engaged in the recovery and restoration process. We anticipate approximately four months for full recovery and return to a renovated Plainfield Memorial School by December.

The outpouring of support has been nothing short of inspiring. Killingly school district has offered to house our entire Memorial school students and staff in a section of their school administration complex which was the former Killingly High School. As a facility used for both school administration and educational programs, the site has security, technology WIFI, and large appropriate classrooms. It will serve well as a temporary location for our students and staff. The location is approximately five miles from Plainfield and less than a mile from Ellis Tech where more than 100 Plainfield students attend school daily. No site in Plainfield was large enough to provide this opportunity for our students. We greatly appreciate the generosity and support of Killingly Schools!

We are now in process of preparing the section of the Killingly school site to replicate our Memorial School environment. All of the classrooms at Killingly are being cleaned and equipped for our students and each room will be labelled with the same class room number and teacher assigned. Our students will be entering a new site but they will be placed in the same numbered classroom with the same teacher planned for the school year.

There will be some necessary changes but we are doing all we can to make this transition as smooth as possible. Our present plan is to have our students ride the same bus in the morning to PCS/PMS that was planned. When they arrive at PCS, five busses will relay the students to the Killingly site. We believe this model will provide consistency for student travel when students return to PMS and this will provide a special time for just PMS students to share a morning journey together to their temporary new school. Students who would benefit or require direct transport to the school will be provided special transportation. We are working to secure additional busses in the afternoon so that students can be returned home as a direct bus service with no transfer.

The school year will begin a little later for PMS students. PMS students will not attend school on Wednesday, August 29th or Thursday, August 30th as we need a few extra days for teachers to prepare classrooms. On **Thursday, August 30th, we will host an open house for parents, students and staff from 3 PM to 5 PM.** At that time all attendees will meet in the large auditorium for a welcome and discussion followed by a tour of the building and visits to the classrooms with teachers. Refreshments will be available.

The relay-transportation model will create a delay in the start of the school day. Typically, the PCS/PMS school day runs from 8:15 AM to 2:45 PM. Since the PMS students will need an additional 15 minutes to get to the Killingly school site, the school day will be approximately 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM.

The school administration and the Board of Education ask for your support and understanding during this time. The public response has been outstanding from offers for the use of facilities – such as the generosity of Killingly schools – to donations, and offers of support. As a result of all of this generosity, Plainfield Memorial Students and families will have an alternate school site designed to match as close as possible the learning environment they had at PMS while the restoration company restores PMS.

As a summary chart of the information above, please review the information below. You will continue to receive School Messenger notices from the Principal and you will receive information about the start of the school year and plans to engage students, families, faculty and staff on a walkthrough of the temporary school site in Killingly.

Summary:

PMS Recovery Effort: It appears that PMS will be under restoration from August 14 to December, 2018.

Interim School Location: PMS students and staff will be housed at Killingly Administrative Offices
79 Westfield Avenue, Killingly, CT 06239

Start of School Year: Monday, August 27, 2018 - Teacher Orientation
Tuesday, August 28, 2018 - Teacher Professional Development
Wednesday, August 29th, 2018 (PMS students do not attend) - Start of School
Thursday, August 30th, 2018 (Students only attend 3:00 -5:00 PM with parents
- PMS Students & Families attend School Welcome At Killingly School Site
Friday, August 31, 2018 – PMS students’ first full school day at new site
- Note: Friday will be the first day transportation is provided.
- The school year for PMS students will be 180 with no added days.

Transportation: Students will ride the same bus as planned for the school year in the morning. Students will arrive at PCS at the regular time and will load waiting busses to travel together to the Killingly school site for arrival by 8:20 AM. School day will be 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM. Busses will transport students directly home from the Killingly school site.

Communications: PMS staff will continue to provide information regarding the start of school. This letter is being mailed to all PMS families. This letter will be posted on the District website: www.plainfieldschools.org

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. Di Pietro

Kenneth, R. Di Pietro, Superintendent