

TO: Board of School Directors  
FR: Bernie Kepler, Superintendent  
RE: September 2020 Board Report  
DT: September 24, 2020

### Student Activities:

Students attending Outside Cyber Schools:

September 1, 2019:	Regular Education: 53	Special Education: 30
September 1, 2020:	Regular Education: 68	Special Education: 26
September 22, 2020:	Regular Education: 119	Special Education: 28

### Other:

24 Special Education paraprofessionals participated in 21 virtual training sessions hosted by IU#13 at the onset of the school-year. Some topics included: reading, trauma, pairing and reinforcement, autism and stress management. All special education paraprofessionals must receive 20 hours of training each year and the academy meets this requirement annually.

On August 31, 2020 it was announced that PASD will receive \$23,667 in a one-time "Special Education COVID-19 Impact Mitigation Grant." The federal dollars pass through PDE and PASD will utilize this to offset costs associated with the additional staff employed for serving the needs of our learners with an IEP who have selected our Cougar Academy.

On Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup> the United States Department of Agriculture announced that they were extending a program which allows free breakfasts and lunches to be provided to school students through December 31, 2020 or until USDA funding has been exhausted. The Pennsylvania Department of Education sent guidance on Wednesday afternoon, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, on how to apply and implement the program. Effective Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> the Palmyra Area School District began offering a **FREE** breakfast and **FREE** lunch to each student for every school day. For students attending school in person, these free meals will be available during normal breakfast and lunch hours. A rotating variety of ala carte items will also be sold as available. See list below. **For students learning virtually and other children aged 18 and under in the community**, free meals will be offered via drive-through distribution. This meal distribution occurs in the front bus loop of the Palmyra High School at 3:45 PM on Monday afternoons. **An RSVP is required** and instructions are below. At this time the free meals for all students will only run until December 31, 2020 at which time statuses will return to Paid, Free and Reduced based on qualifications and applications. Therefore, please return free and reduced meal applications as soon as possible to avoid any gap in benefits.

House Bill 2788 passed the PA House of Representatives on Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. The bill, expected to pass the Senate and be signed into law, allows the parent of any student—disabled or non-disabled—to elect to have their child "repeat a grade level to make up for any lost educational opportunities during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years regardless of whether the child met the requirements to be promoted to the next grade level."

Through the generous donation of Ms. Tanya Belair, the Palmyra Athletic Department was gifted ten AEDs. Representatives from the Peyton Walker Foundation accompanied Mr. Weidler in distributing the AEDs to our athletic teams on September 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

In May 2019, our district staff sponsored one of the holes at Camp Swatara's new frisbee golf course through a dress down day where our staff makes a contribution to a worthy cause and dresses down on a Friday. On Labor Day, Mrs. Waiter and Mr. Popejoy had the privilege of attending the dedication of this course and our dedicated golf hole which is hole #1 on the course.

On Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> we experienced a last minute water main break in the area of the middle school. We quickly announced that the school was closed and for the Group B students to remain home and learn virtually

along with Group A students. Teachers are reporting that the quick transition was effective and student attendance met the norm.

**Upcoming Events:**

- Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>: Homecoming Football Game vs. Hershey
- Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>: Homecoming Movie Night in PHS Parking Lot