



March 16, 2020

Dear Portland Public Schools Families,

I am writing to give you more specifics on how we plan to distribute school meals, learning materials and tech devices to support our transition to remote learning.

School Meals

Beginning Wednesday, March 18th, the Portland Public Schools will provide school meals for children up to age 18. **Children must be present in order for meals to be provided.** Meals will include both breakfast and lunch and can be picked up together anytime between 10am and 12 noon, Monday – Friday, from the bus loop at each participating school. You can drive up. Please stay in your car and meals will be provided based on the number of children in the car. Walk-ups are also welcome. You may go to the most convenient school to you:

- Riverton Elementary School
- Lyman Moore Middle School
- Deering High School
- King Middle School
- East End Community School
- Presumpscot Elementary School
- Rowe Elementary School
- Peaks Island Elementary School

Staff will not be checking names or requiring identification, but meals are for children and teens only. Unfortunately, we are not allowed to serve meals to adults.

Additional meal options are being provided by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southern Maine. Their five clubhouses are closed through March 27, but families can pick up Grab-and-Go meals at the clubhouses from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday for any child in the community age 18 and under. The clubhouses in Portland across from Portland High School, and at Riverton Park and Sagamore Village.

Learning Materials and Devices

There will be an opportunity to pick up learning materials and tech devices at your child's home school on Wednesday March 18th. The distribution will take place either outdoors or in a large space such as a gym. As a further precaution, families are asked to only come to pick up learning materials if your child is not able to access them online and only pick up tech devices if your child doesn't have an alternate device at home.

There will be staggered schedules for pick-up at all schools (elementary/middle/high schools), alphabetically based on last name. Here is the schedule:

9:00 - 11:00 last name beginning with A-F
11:00 - 1:00 G-M
1:00 - 3:00 N-Z

Pre-K to Grade 5:

Grade specific Learning Packets for K- Grade 5 can be picked up at the children's home school or food distribution sites. If families have the ability to print and/or don't want to come in the building, Learning

Packets can also be accessed online on the district website starting Wednesday, March 18th. Pre-K activity bags can be picked up at your child's school. The staggered schedule by last name and alphabet apply.

Secondary Schools:

Middle and high school pick up is for learning materials, devices and band instruments ONLY. Please refer to communications from your child's school for more specific information.

Seventh- and eighth-graders already have been issued tech devices. If they have taken those home or have an alternate device at home, they should use those. Families of students who left their devices at school and don't have another alternative at home, should follow the staggered schedule to pick up their devices from school. The district is working on a plan to distribute devices to sixth-graders without access to devices at home.

The district is exploring options to get internet access to families that don't have it. Spectrum is offering free 60-day access to families who need internet access during the crisis.

Schools will be keeping track of student attendance starting March 18. More information on how that will happen will be communicated by each school.

The Portland Public Schools' commitment to ensuring our students continue learning while keeping them and our staff safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'X. Botana', is written over a horizontal line. A vertical line extends downwards from the end of the signature.

Xavier Botana, Superintendent