



**PANTHER VALLEY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Special Education Department  
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**Mrs. Lanae P. McKelvey**  
School Psychologist

**Dr. Tammy M. Chrin, Ed. D**  
Supervisor of Special Education

**Mrs. Jennifer L. Kupetz**  
Administrative Assistant

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March 30, 2020

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

This letter is to serve as written notice to our families concerning plans to meet the needs of students who receive special education services in our school district.

The Special Education Department here at Panther Valley School District has been closely monitoring and planning for the needs of our students due to the school closure brought about by the coronavirus pandemic. Faculty and staff have been meeting remotely to collaborate on how to best meet the needs of our students in this difficult time. We have been following guidance from both the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit when considering the needs of students who receive services under an Individual Education Program (IEP) under the Individuals with Disability Act (IDEA). As you can imagine, new guidance is being obtained regularly and we are working to quickly adapt to all changes as they come our way.

At this point in time, Panther Valley School District will be operating under the Enrichment and Review provision of the Continuity of Education. Enrichment and Review consists of informal activities that reinforce or extend students' prior learning. New standards and skills are not addressed through Enrichment and Review. Enrichment and Review activities can take a variety of forms including online resources, virtual instruction, and non-digital learning opportunities (e.g., materials sent home with students)

The respective school principals and faculty are in the midst of developing educational materials for all of our students in grades K-12. We are planning on a combination of online instructional materials, as well as optional printed practice activities that will be distributed at our already designated lunch pick up sites. The practice activities are for families of students that do not have internet access and/or computers in their homes. Please note that many online materials can also be accessed on your cell phones that have internet access.

The Special Education Department is already planning to ensure that students receive a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) as required under IDEA if the Panther Valley School District moves to the Planned Instruction provision of the Continuity of Education framework. We are working tirelessly to set up virtual means of communicating with students. If we move to the Planned Instruction program, your student's special education case manager will be in touch to assist you through that transition. Starting this week, special education case managers will be in touch with families to schedule any necessary meeting to update paperwork and/or hold meetings as required throughout the school year. These meetings will be held virtually through the use of Zoom, Google Meet... and/or conference calls. Your student's special education case manager will be in touch to set up any of these meetings. It will be necessary to share documents electronically during the school closure, and then the Special Education Office will be issuing hard copies of documents once the school closure has ended. Please make sure to provide your most up-to-date phone number and email address to your special education case manager.

We are most concerned about the health and wellness of our school community. Our first priority is keeping everyone healthy and safe so that we are all ready to return to school when this closure is over. In the meantime, please feel free to reach out to

the members of the special education department via email if you have any questions or concerns. I am including the email addresses for our special education department in this letter for your reference.

Staff Member	Role	Email Address
Dr. Tammy Chrin	Special Education Supervisor	<a href="mailto:chrint@panthervalley.org">chrint@panthervalley.org</a>
Mrs. Jen Kupetz	Special Education Secretary	<a href="mailto:kupetzj@panthervalley.org">kupetzj@panthervalley.org</a>
Mrs. Lanae McKelvey	School Psychologist	<a href="mailto:mckelveyl@panthervalley.org">mckelveyl@panthervalley.org</a>
Ms. Pam Hoppes	Gifted Coordinator	<a href="mailto:hoppesp@panthervalley.org">hoppesp@panthervalley.org</a>
Mrs. Carrie Calabrese	Speech Therapist	<a href="mailto:calabresec@panthervalley.org">calabresec@panthervalley.org</a>
Mrs. Jennifer Alberti	Speech Therapist	<a href="mailto:albertij@panthervalley.org">albertij@panthervalley.org</a>
Mrs. Joyce Minehan	Occupational Therapist	<a href="mailto:jminehan@bhaservices.org">jminehan@bhaservices.org</a>
Mrs. Jennifer Cinelli	Occupational Therapist Aide	<a href="mailto:jcinelli@bhaservices.org">jcinelli@bhaservices.org</a>
Mrs. Kimberly Marchessault	Physical Therapist	<a href="mailto:marchessaultk@cliu.org">marchessaultk@cliu.org</a>
Mrs. Mary Hoffman	PVES Learning Support Teacher	<a href="mailto:hoffmanm@panthervalley.org">hoffmanm@panthervalley.org</a>
Ms. Jennifer Schlegel	PVES Learning Support Teacher	<a href="mailto:schlegelj@panthervalley.org">schlegelj@panthervalley.org</a>
Mrs. Amber Forster	PVES Learning Support Teacher	<a href="mailto:forstera@panthervalley.org">forstera@panthervalley.org</a>
Mrs. Marta McLaughlin	PVES Emotional Support Teacher	<a href="mailto:mclaughlinm@panthervalley.org">mclaughlinm@panthervalley.org</a>
Mrs. Gabby Martin	PVES Life Skills Support Teacher	<a href="mailto:maring1@panthervalley.org">maring1@panthervalley.org</a>
Mrs. Nicole Stevens	PVIS Learning Support Teacher	<a href="mailto:stevensn@panthervalley.org">stevensn@panthervalley.org</a>
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Ms. Sarah Beck	PVHS Learning Support Teacher	<a href="mailto:becks@panthervalley.org">becks@panthervalley.org</a>
Mrs. Ann Marie Dixon	PVHS Learning Support Teacher	<a href="mailto:dixona@panthervalley.org">dixona@panthervalley.org</a>
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Mr. Bruce Millheim	PVHS Emotional Support Teacher	<a href="mailto:millheimb@panthervalley.org">millheimb@panthervalley.org</a>
Mrs. Liz Saxon	PVHS Life Skills Support Teacher	<a href="mailto:saxonl@panthervalley.org">saxonl@panthervalley.org</a>
Ms. Jennifer Hogeland	PVHS Life Skills Support Teacher	<a href="mailto:hogelandj@panthervalley.org">hogelandj@panthervalley.org</a>

I thank you in advance for your flexibility during this time as we work through any technical difficulties that we may encounter during this time. Please feel free to reach out to me at [chrint@panthervalley.org](mailto:chrint@panthervalley.org) if you have any questions or concerns.

Stay safe during this unprecedented time,

*Dr. Tammy M. Chrin*