

Port Townsend School District No. 50

Learning Through a Sense of Place



Superintendent Polm's Newsletter – Vol. 19-20, No. 16, May 08, 2020

Board Meeting ~ May 7, 2020

The Board of Directors met on Thursday, May 7 for a study session meeting, but there were some action items. It was a virtual Zoom meeting. Thanks to Katy Gaffney for all her work setting the meeting up and ensuring we meet all the Open Meeting Act rules during the emergency. Also, thanks to Amy Khile for her behind the scenes work activating video and microphones during the zoom meeting. The board received reports on High School Grading and Commencement, Human Growth and Development Curriculum and Social Emotional Learning.

There were a large number of people (73+) offering public comments regarding OCEAN. There are people who oppose the reduction of staffing and plans to revise the high school alternative offerings for the program and district. The board did approve a policy 3424 Opioid Related Overdose Reversal and 2410 High School Graduation Requirements as well as Resolution 20-07 Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week and 20-08 Emergency Waiver of School Days and Instructional Hours.

The meeting was held via Zoom again due to the extension of closure and related public meeting prohibition. Most of the governor's proclamation regarding the Open Public Meeting Act and Public Records Act temporary suspension/waivers are extended again to **May 31, 2020**, **except** for the Public Records Act five-business day agency response requirement in RCW 42.56.520(1) which is extended to **May 11, 2020**. See the [extension notification letter](#) from legislators.

The Board normally meets on the first and third Thursday of each month for their regularly scheduled study sessions and business meetings. Further, the Board at times holds special meetings on particular topics. For more information, please see: http://ptschools.org/board_supt. Also, the Board uses BoardDocs for meeting management. The website is: <https://go.boarddocs.com/wa/ptsd/Board.nsf/Public>.

Information Regarding Access to Schools ~ Repeat

To keep students and staff healthy and safe, we will not be allowing staff or students in the buildings to retrieve *non-essential* items at this time. We will wait for the stay home order to end, or we will create another option as we get closer to the end of the school year. However, some teachers or staff may need *essential* items from the school now.

Our direction remains the same, staff members, who are not working in childcare or food service, need principal permission and a specific time frame, to enter the building. The district must maintain health checks at Salish, and sign-in and out sheets at each school. We have directed non-essential staff to stay home. However, teachers and some classified staff may need to retrieve teaching materials or tools to deliver instructional resources to students. In that event, please work with the building principal. There are ways to maintain the Governor's orders and still maintain needed safety guidelines.

Please remember physical distancing of at least six feet is required and a face covering is needed when in proximity to others within the buildings. Wash hands before and after entering, and also avoid touching surfaces where possible. The principal will work with staff and ensure custodial staff is aware of any additional areas that may need sanitizing. Of course, no one should be in the buildings if ill.

Continuous Learning ~ Sandy Gessner-Crabtree

We have moved into another phase of continuous learning. Professional Development took place on Modern Teacher on Wednesday afternoon.

There is some concern about this change in the midst of the closure. However, this change has been motivated in part by parent input through our survey. As with any new endeavor, there will be a steep learning curve for many as we implement the digital learning platform and try to determine what paper and pencil activities are most important.

One of the big ideas this coming week is to focus more on building a community with students than ramping up academic content. There is a great deal of research available regarding remote learning. One of the keys to success is to establish and nurture relationships and implement as much student choice or agency as possible. I would encourage the use of ZOOM for the former. Take advantage of ZOOM time to reestablish or create a virtual classroom culture. Allow students to reconnect with one another and with their teacher. Certainly, this time can be for questions or review, but unless all students are on the ZOOM meeting, new learning will be missed by some. A focus on this ZOOM time to build a sense of community and belongingness should help connect students, and many students will follow with the motivation to engage.

As we further develop and refine our district expectations, some teachers may need to make adjustments to what they have already been doing. I would ask everyone to be open and supportive of the district's choices for digital platforms and tools. We want a systematic approach to this challenge. I expect grade level communication and collaboration. I also expect alignment to ensure students are experiencing as common a curriculum as possible, even if the instructional delivery varies some among teachers. Sandy has been taking the lead in terms of investigating the most highly recommended professional development tools and services. Very soon we will be rolling out specific professional development support to help teachers and staff build proficiencies to meet the needs of students and families.

As of 4-16-20, a total of 240 devices have been distributed to students who need them to access digital continuous learning resources. We are still working to equip some of the students who have been difficult to reach. This single issue lends my thinking to the value of asynchronous learning. Having taught asynchronous courses and taken them. The value of having a video to refer to (and replay as needed) is a key part of this remote learning experience. I think it is safe to say we will be encouraging thinking around this idea.

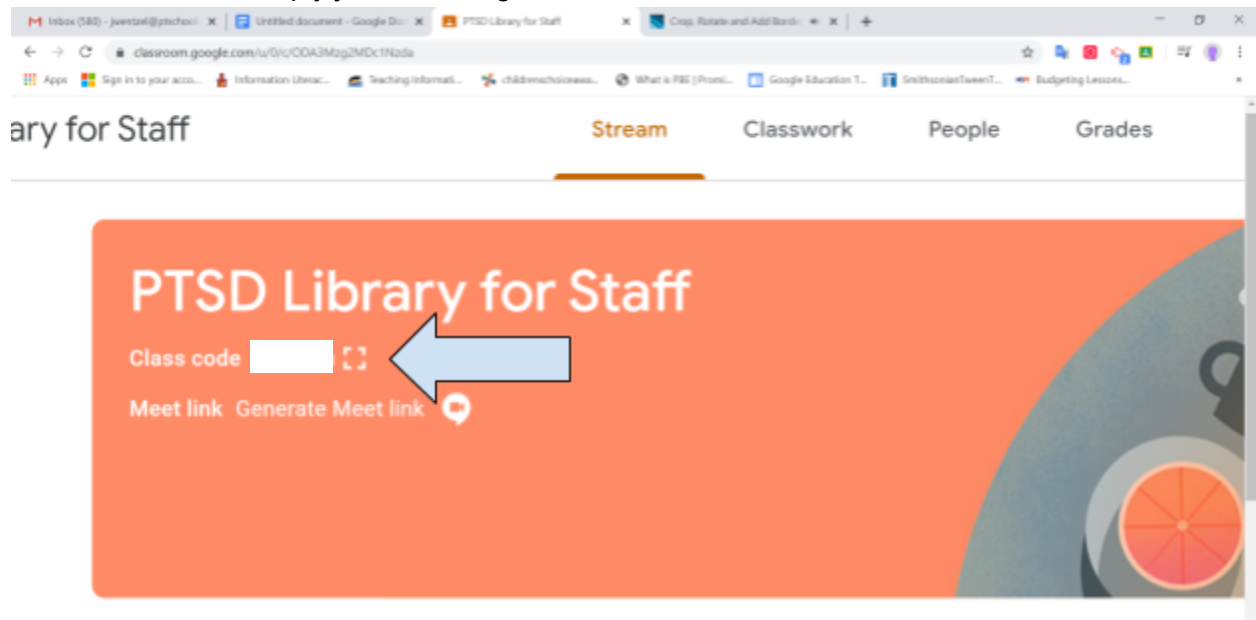
As I look forward to the fall, I can imagine schools needing to be nimble. We do not know how this virus will impact schools in the fall and beyond. One way for us to be prepared is to transform the instructional pedagogy and learning expectations throughout this spring. If we end up needing to provide remote education for a while, we can be in a position to be fluid.

I continue to be impressed with the efforts of our staff. Thank you for what you do, and please take things one step at a time. The stress and anxiety people are feeling is normal. And, it will get better with time.

News from your PTSD Libraries ~ Joy Wentzel

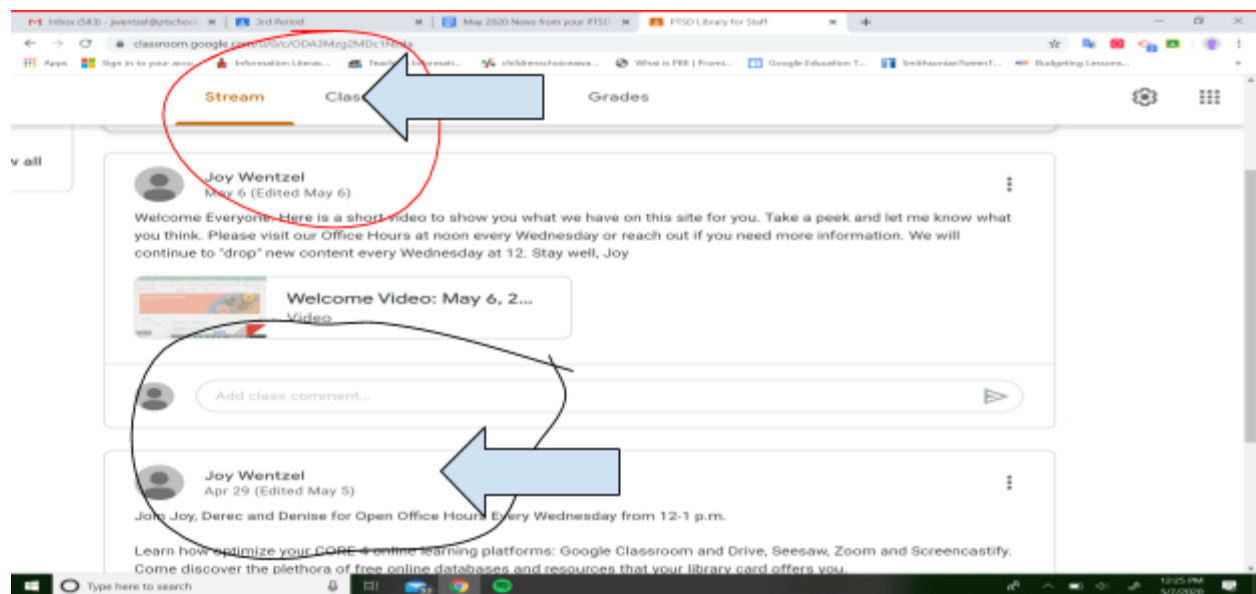
Looking for help with our CORE 4? [Zoom?](#) [Seesaw?](#) [Google?](#) [Screencastify?](#)

Join our online **PTSD Library for Staff Google Classroom**, where you will find short videos, tips, and tricks for learning and optimizing these platforms. The classroom has “beginner” to “advanced” tools. Simply join our Google Classroom with the code that was given to you via



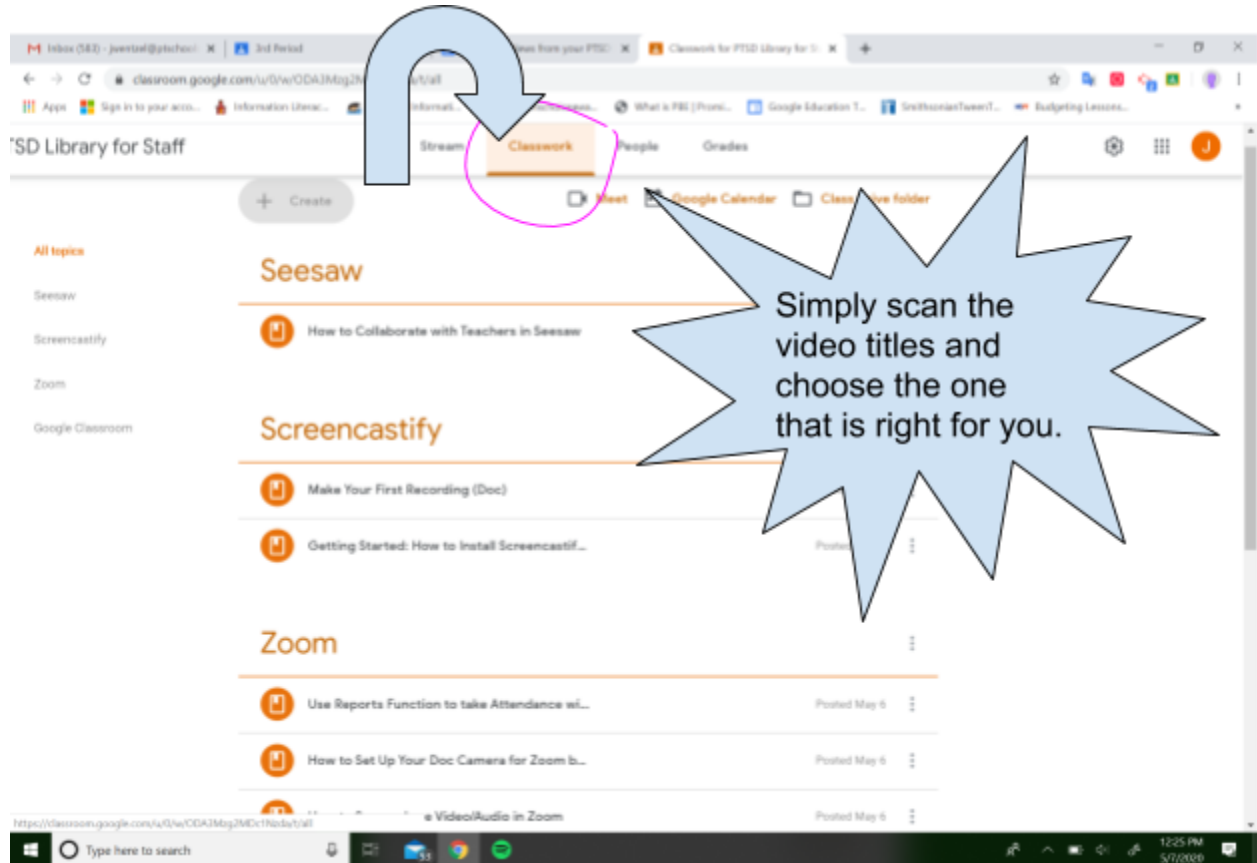
Never joined a Google Classroom before? Here is a short video on how you do that:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WUFxti-QytdxsmWwkybPshxHdM0r5YXR/view>

New content is dropped at noon every Wednesday. You will see a weekly short summary video on the “**Stream**” tab that highlights what has been added that week.



The “**Classwork**” tab has chapter topics on our CORE 4 platforms. If you have specific questions or needs, please email me and I will add information to the site and answer your query. This is

YOUR library so let me know what I can add to help you. My goal is to save you time and curate a collection of resources to go to when you need them.



High School ~ Carrie Ehrhardt

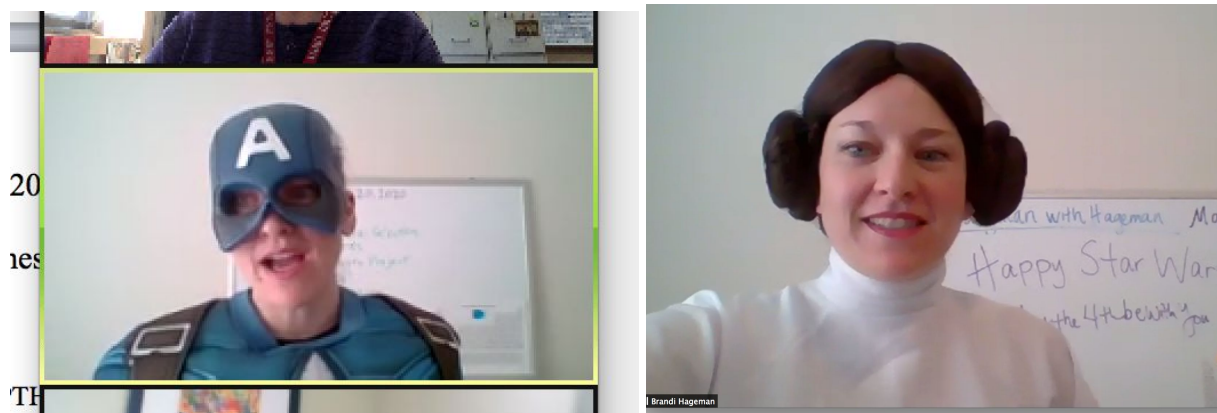
PTHS is pleased to announce some senior honors for the graduating Class of 2020

- Valedictorian - Kincaid Gould
- Salutatorian - Louis Babik
- Faculty Speaker - Orion Pendley
- Faculty Selected Class Spreaker - Karen Absher

Principal Ehrhardt announced that Linda Lenz is transferring up from Blue heron and will be taking the 1.0 position at the high school (vacated by Judy Cowling). She is certified in both math and science, making her a great addition to the team.

Ms. Ehrhardt also shared some fun photos. Mrs. Hageman has taken to dressing up occasionally in costume for her students as she Zooms from home. An Avengers super hero,

and Princess Leia on May 4th (May the 4th be with you)!



Child Nutrition

The child nutrition program is still going well and growing in the number of meals served each week with 17,864 meals served as of May 6, 2020.

Childcare Program

The childcare program is also going well. Our superheroes are a great job. We are still serving about 10 students a day.

Port Townsend School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of race, religion, creed, color, immigration status, national origin, age, honorably-discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, marital status, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. The district provides equal access to school facilities to the Boy Scouts of America and all other designated youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

Laurie McGinnis, Title IX

Shelby MacMeekin, 504 Coordinator & ADA Compliance

Amy Khile, Civil Rights Compliance