Frequently Asked Questions

School Closure

Does school closure mean that there are no classes until the school opens again?
While the building remains closed, all teachers and students are engaging remotely via Zoom, Google Hangouts, WhatsApp, text messaging, Schoology, and even phone calls to continue engaging in learning experiences. Teachers and students are meeting virtually at the usual time of their courses. Teachers are taking attendance based on the “virtual” presence the students demonstrate by connecting with their teachers.

What are virtual learning experiences?
The word, “virtual” means that the experience is almost like being in the classroom, but students and teachers are connected via live video using apps on smartphones or computers. Teachers are preparing activities every day that students can do when they connect with their teachers at the regular class time. Each student is expected to connect with their teachers every day and find out what they can do to continue learning from home.

What are the academic resources that students can pick up at the school?
Teachers have prepared packages with activities, copies of text, and also textbooks that students can pick up at the school during the meal pick up times: Mondays and Thursdays only from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm.

What happens during the Spring Break?
From Monday, April 13 until Friday, April 17 teachers and students will not engage in any online activities or communicate via phone or messaging apps. During Spring Break only dinner will be served to TNS students who would like to go to the school and pick up meals. Food will be distributed only on two days: Monday, April 13 and Thursday, April 16 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Starting on Monday, April 20 lunch meals will continue being distributed on Mondays and Thursdays from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and dinners at the regular times. Also starting on Monday, April 20 teachers and students will continue engaging in virtual learning experiences until the school re-opens.

Can students go to the school to have lunch and dinner?
Meals are pre-packaged for pick-up only. Students can come to the school during the food distribution days and times: Mondays and Thursdays only from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm.

When will the school open again?
According to the D.C. Mayor, schools are scheduled to re-open on Monday, April 27, 2020. The Next Step PCS will keep its community informed of any changes.

Besides meals and academic resources, are there other items the students can get for free?
Those students who have the need of basic toiletries (like deodorant, soap bars, etc.), diapers and baby wipes, can ask the volunteers at the food distribution table. Students can contact their Case Managers if they need additional support.

Does the school have computers for students to take home?
The school administration is currently working to see how many laptops could be distributed to students. More information will be communicated about this when computers become available.