



East Pennsboro Area School District

WHERE RELEVANCE AND PASSION INSPIRE SUCCESS

District Administration Center

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Donna M. Dunar, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

To: Parents, Guardians, and Students
From: Bruce Gordon, Director of Technology
Date: 9/3/20
Subject: Switching to the use of Zoom for all online instruction

Hello,

First, thank you very much for your patience and understanding as we've embarked on our online learning experience. Our students and teachers have handled everything quite well. We would like to take a moment to update everyone on the platform we plan to use to deliver live online instruction.

Switching to solely using Zoom to deliver live online instruction:

Throughout the initial two weeks of online learning, we received input from numerous teachers and parents about issues in our use of Google Meet. The following are some of the common issues reported:

- Teachers not having sole control over live classes
- Students entering classes early and logging in after classes have ended
- Students being able to unmute themselves during inopportune moments
- Inability to record lessons in real time (Inconsistent functionality of this feature)
- A few instances of non-EPASD entities entering a live online learning session

Many staff members found numerous ways to work around some of the issues listed above, but nothing universal could be found that didn't make the use of Google Meet even more difficult.

As a result of teacher and staff input, we decided to solely use Zoom. It will take some time and professional development for our staff to fully transition to using Zoom only. We set a deadline for everyone to fully transition to using Zoom only. **The deadline is 9/18/20.**

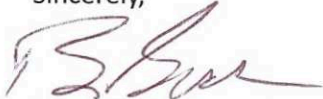
Why switch to Zoom? The following are some of the important features we need an online platform to encompass, and Zoom includes all of them:

- A Waiting Room (Teacher controls who enters a class and when)
- The ability to mute students without students being able to unmute themselves
- The ability to control when student cameras are on / off.
- The ability to end a meeting and not allow students to linger in an online classroom
- The ability to record automatically (None of the glitches faced with Google Meet)

Initially, we planned to use Google Meet due to its perceived ease of use and the fact that we could limit access to only people / students with an EPASD email address. Also, we were under the impression that Google was pushing out the necessary features outlined above. This, too, didn't turn out to be the case and Google has not provided us with a timeline of when these shortcomings would be addressed.

We apologize for any and all issues and inconvenience our initial use of Google Meet may have caused and are working to adapt as quickly as possible to this new environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Gordon', written in a cursive style.

Bruce Gordon

Director of Technology