



Public Schools of Plainfield

Plainfield Academy for the Arts & Advanced Studies
Dr. Angela M. Bento – Principal
Mrs. Aurora J. Hill – Vice-Principal
1700 West Front St. & Rock Avenue
Plainfield, NJ 07063
908-731-4421 Fax 908-731-4392

January 4, 2021

Dear PAAAS Community,

Happy New Year! May each of you have a healthy, happy, and prosperous New Year!

If there is one thing that the Pandemic has possibly brought us, it is PERSPECTIVE. Since March 17, 2020, we have not attended school back in our school building as we are accustomed to traditionally. We all had to learn how to instruct and learn in a virtual world. This has proven to be extremely difficult for our community and all other learning communities globally.

Countless people have uttered the fact that they took so many things for granted! Interestingly enough, as we embark on a new year, 2021, we ache to be physically present with our loved ones, with all of our students and staff but know that we will be risking our health and the health of others; therefore we continue to follow social distancing protocols and procedures.

We must have each family's cooperation and partnership to ensure that our students are attending all of their respective virtual classes daily. Attendance is extremely important. Attendance is taken on a period-by-period basis. Starting January 5, 2021, each parent and or guardian will be receiving a phone call for each period their student is absent from class. This may mean multiple calls per day. If your child is ill and not able to attend a class for any reason, please call Mr. Lewis, Attendance Secretary, at 908-731-4200, ext. 5512 or email him at jlewis@plainfield.k12.nj.us.

I must bring to your attention a few concerns we are having at PAAAS. Many students are arriving late to virtual school or class. Some have been late as many as 50 days, resulting in them missing the majority of instruction in the day's first class. Please be advised that any student with 18 or more absences in any class will not earn credit for the class per the New Jersey Department of Education. Please read below as per NJDOE:

“Student absenteeism can lead to low academic achievement, school dropout, delinquency, and gang involvement. School districts that have established multi-systemic approaches and policies pertaining to student absenteeism typically experience fewer numbers of dropouts and a greater number of graduates. The compulsory education law (N.J.S.A. 18A:38-28 through 31) requires all children between the ages of 6-16 to attend school. The attendance regulations (N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6), require each district board of education to develop, adopt and implement policies

and procedures regarding the attendance of students, including the adoption of a definition of "unexcused absence," and the provision of mandated services for students with between one and nine cumulative unexcused absences and a mandated court referral for truant students, those with ten or more cumulative unexcused absences."

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/students/safety/behavior/attendance/>

There will be no mid-terms this academic year. We believe that there are excessive assessments and we lose too much classroom time. Each marking period will weigh 22.5% and the final exam will weigh 10%.

Our warmest wishes for a wonderful 2021. Please feel free to reach out to us at any time with any concerns or suggestions.

Respectfully,



Dr. Angela M. Bento - Principal

"A CHAMPION FOR STUDENTS"

PAAAS | Unify. Persevere. Create

1700 West Front Street.

Plainfield, New Jersey 07063

(908) 731-4200 ext. 5353



Mrs. Aurora J. Hill - Vice Principal

"A CHAMPION FOR STUDENTS"