



# Bellefonte Area School District

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Michelle Saylor Ed. D., Superintendent  
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April 9, 2020

Dear Bellefonte Area School District parents and families,

This morning, Governor Wolf ordered all schools in the Commonwealth closed for the remainder of the school year. Details about the order and additional guidance for schools can be found on the [PA Government website](#). Please know that many of our teachers, staff members and administrators are deeply saddened by the closure. Prior to March 11, 2020, we were truly blessed by each day you allowed us to share our time and learning with your children.

As indicated on the PA Government website, teaching and learning may continue through the Continuity of Education plans (CoE). The plan that our district submitted can be viewed in its entirety on the [district website](#). While our focus has been on review and enrichment, today's announcement may lead us to enhance what we are trying to do educationally. Our teachers, professional staff, and administrators have been working diligently to meet the needs of all of our students while trying to be understanding and supportive to all of the differing challenges that our families are facing.

We have families in our district who have students who are looking for more instruction for their children and we have families who are content with using the opportunities we are offering. We have families who have reached out to us and have shared how much they have appreciated the time they can spend together as families and we have families who are struggling just to survive. Our teachers all have their own set of unique personal and professional challenges. Most importantly, we have students who can access and thrive in a virtual learning platform and we have students who cannot learn this way for a multitude of reasons. All of the planning that has occurred to date has taken into account all of these factors. We truly want what's best for all students and will work tirelessly to that end.

As our Continuity of Education plan evolves, we will continue to work to meet all students' needs. The menu boards for the week of April 13th have already been created, and we will offer a few tips for parents as part of those boards and future boards. Moving forward, we will be enhancing the opportunities for learning and increasing opportunities for student/teacher connections beginning with the week of April 20, 2020. For example, the menu boards will include extension activities that include more challenging work, cross curricular activities, and theme or project-based activities.

We will be asking students and parents to share student work through google classroom and other means. Teachers will be providing feedback on that work and creating more opportunities for students to grow in their learning. We will continue to strive to make our parent/student/teacher connections even stronger in as many ways as possible. This will mean more educational opportunities for virtual class or small group meetings with teachers guiding students through activities. Additionally, as we move forward in the following weeks, our menu boards may include some new content from our established curriculum, and our teachers will strive to make sure all students have the opportunity to learn and grow. While we are all working on this, teachers will begin to prepare for teaching and learning when we can be together again.

This is a stressful time for all of us. We truly are in this together. We know that together we can continue to provide a meaningful learning experience for all of our children. Our counselors are also prepared to offer resources and connections for you if you need support beyond academics. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher, counselor, or principal. Remember, we are here for our students, we are here for you.

Stay safe, stay healthy,

Tammie Burnaford, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction  
Michelle Saylor, Ed.D., Superintendent