

## **Bellefonte Area School District**

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Dr. Michelle R. Saylor, Superintendent  
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**June 8, 2020**

**Dear Bellefonte Area School District Families:**

We hope you and your family are doing well! We finally reached the end of the 2019 - 2020 school year. As we bring this school year to a close, we'd like to take a brief look into the summer and provide some information about potential reopening of schools in August.

### **Final Continuity of Education Plans for the End of School**

Following the approved school calendar, the last student day of the 2019 - 2020 school year will be tomorrow, June 9th. Teachers may provide some review or enrichment activities for students to do over the summer months, as we have done in the past. Progress Reports and Report Cards will be mailed home to parents after the school year ends. Principals will be providing more information about this.

### **Changes to school office hours for the summer**

At this time, we are planning to close all school offices to the public on Fridays for the summer months. This will begin on Friday, June 12, 2020. We will be adhering to all CDC guidelines in an abundance of caution every day. However, closing on Fridays will allow time for our custodial staff to perform additional, deep cleaning in the offices each week. We will advertise these changes on the website and at the schools.

### **Potential Changes to the School Calendar for 2020 - 2021**

With the circumstances surrounding COVID-19, the cancelation of the Grange Fair, and the lateness of Labor Day this year, discussion about potentially revising the school calendar for 2020 - 2021 has evolved. Additionally, the current calendar for 2020 - 2021 was approved

several months ago before the pandemic, and we may want to make some changes to improve the calendar. Any changes to the school calendar must be approved by the School Board. More information will be sent when it becomes available.

### **Reopening Schools**

The PA Department of Education (PDE) released the first guidance for reopening schools, last week. The first plan for Health and Safety must be written, Board approved, submitted to PDE and posted on our website before students may enter our schools. This first plan will focus on all of the health, safety and wellness of reopening schools. In 2-3 weeks, PDE will issue similar guidance for the instructional/educational aspects of reopening schools. These plans will focus on instructional delivery, equity and social/emotional health of students. Here is a link to the PDE site if you'd like more information:

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/K12/Pages/HealthSafetyConsiderations.asp>

As a district, we want to be very proactive in our planning and have formed a Task Force for Reopening the Bellefonte Area School District School. Currently, there are nearly 40 Task Force members, including district administrators, teachers, staff and School Board members. The group plans to expand to include parents, families, and community members or to form smaller focus groups as needed. We know that working together we can create a safe and nurturing environment for students, as we try to be flexible to provide the best experiences for all students by whatever means we can. We hope to have a variety of options to meet the different needs of our students, parents and families. For now, along with beginning to write our Health and Safety plans, the task force also will be conducting a few surveys which include surveying teachers, parents, and families about instruction over the past few months and collecting information from parents and families about future plans. We need your input, so please look for these surveys in the next few weeks. Information will be posted on the BASD website throughout the summer, too. More information to come!

### **More Available Information**

As a reminder, a lot of information about BASD's response to COVID-19 can be found on the district's website ([www.basd.net](http://www.basd.net)), and specifically on the COVID-19 information page (<https://www.basd.net/Page/14929>). In addition, the district website includes a link to parent and family resources, which may be helpful throughout the summer.

This will be my last regular, Monday letter for this school year, but we will try to keep parents and families updated as much as possible over the summer via the website, social media and email as needed.

**In closing,** no one could have ever imagined that when we left school on March 11th that we wouldn't be opening our doors again this school year. We appreciate your patience, your support and your willingness to work with us throughout these past 13 weeks. Thank you so very much! We have truly missed our students, and we can't wait until we are together again.

Best wishes for a safe, healthy and enjoyable summer vacation!

Sincerely,  
Tammie L. Burnaford  
Assistant Superintendent  
Bellefonte Area School District.