

Bellefonte Area School District

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Dr. Michelle R. Saylor, Superintendent
Mrs. Tammie Burnaford, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Kenneth G. Bean, Jr., CMA, Director of Fiscal Affairs

May 18, 2020

Dear Bellefonte Area School District Families:

We hope you and your family are doing well! I know I keep repeating, but we truly do appreciate all that you are doing to help us provide the best remote educational experience that we can for your children. While it seems like a very long time since our students left us on March 11th, the end of the school year seems to be coming quickly. Here are some reminders and information as we enter the last few weeks of school.

Continuity of Education Plan and Calendar Update

Next Monday is Memorial Day and will be recognized and celebrated in our district as a holiday. There will be no regular teaching and learning on this day. Assignments from this current week will be due by next Tuesday at noon. My weekly parent/guardian letter and the Choice Boards will be sent out on Tuesday next week. Due to the shortened, instructional week, Choice Boards will include new content lessons and required assignments, but the number of optional review/enrichment activities will be slightly less. Google Classroom will continue to be the online teaching and learning platform. Families who do not have stable internet access or have difficulty accessing the online instruction, assignments and assessments should contact their child's teacher for assistance and options for alternative plans.

Looking ahead, during the week of June 1st, Choice Boards may include some assignments and activities that do not require as much technology and have other alterations, as this will be our last full week of school. Following the approved school calendar, the last student day of the 2019 - 2020 school year will be 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.

Plans for Returning Students' Belongings to Students and Plans for Returning Materials Back to Schools Update

Our principals sent out information and plans to parents and families for the first phase last week. If you have not heard from your child's principal regarding the plans or if you need more assistance, please reach out to him/her.

Emotional/Social Well Being of Our Students

Since the onset of the corona virus outbreak in our area and the closure of our schools, we have been mindful of the potential stress level and the mental health of our staff, families, and students. We have many resources, including school counselors, district social workers and outside resources, available for students and families who are experiencing stress or just need someone to talk to. If you have concerns about the social/emotional/mental health of your child, please reach out to your child's principal or school counselor. We want to help, if we can.

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), and specifically on the Covid-19 page (<https://www.basd.net/Page/14929>). Information about our Continuity of Education plan, previous letters and notifications and parent and family resources can be found on this page, too. In addition, the district website includes a link to parent and family resources which may be helpful in these stressful times.

In closing, as I mentioned before, we sincerely appreciate your patience and support as we make our best effort to support students, academically, socially, and emotionally, now and always. Please know that we understand many of our families are under a great deal of stress and may feel overwhelmed by the demands of remote learning. As we have indicated from the beginning, we fully believe that families come first. We only ask that students do the best they can in our planned instruction activities. We truly understand. If your child(ren) or family needs support or help that we can provide or you have concerns or you need more information, please contact your child's principal or teacher.

We truly miss our students, and we can't wait until we are together again. We hope your families are safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Tammie L. Burnaford
Assistant Superintendent
Bellefonte Area School District.

