

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 26, 2020

Dear Bellefonte Area School District Families:

We hope you and your family are doing well! In some ways it seems like this school year has been longer, and in some ways, it's hard to believe that the school year is coming to a close. Typically, teachers and students would be counting down the days that we have left in the school year by this time. For the record, we would have 11 days left in the 2019 - 2020 school year, and we will follow the school calendar as such. Here are some updates and notes for our last 2 weeks of school.

Continuity of Education Plan and Calendar Update

Due to the shortened, instructional week this week, Choice Boards will include new content lessons and required assignments, but the number of optional review/enrichment activities will be slightly less. Assignments will be due by noon next Tuesday. 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.

Next week, the week of June 1st, will be our last week of planned instruction. Choice Boards may include some assignments and activities that do not require as much technology and have other alterations. 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.

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.

A Look to the Future

As Centre County moves into the Green Phase, we are still unsure about what that means for our schools. And, we have no way of knowing what August will bring or what will happen. But, we are wholeheartedly committed to providing the best education possible for all of our students. As the Pennsylvania Department of Education rolls out a "toolkit" of recommendations and options, we will begin planning for the 20-21 school year as soon as possible. Please check our website and social media pages for updates throughout the summer. If necessary, district and school newsletters with important information or updates will be sent to parents/guardians/families as well.

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.