



April 3, 2020

- ✓ Kids First
- ✓ Be an ambassador by honoring the BAS Family and community
- ✓ Work with a cooperative spirit
- ✓ Embrace confidentiality
- ✓ Be respectful of others, their property and time
- ✓ Be punctual, prepared and ready to participate
- ✓ Foster mutual trust and embrace risk-taking
- ✓ Be considerate of individual differences
- ✓ Celebrate success
- ✓ Communicate clearly, concisely, and directly to the appropriate person
- ✓ Listen actively without interruption
- ✓ Present ourselves in a professional manner
- ✓ Be consistent, follow through, and take responsibility for our own actions
- ✓ Norms apply to all

Dear BAS family,

By now you are probably aware that the Governor has closed all Michigan schools for the remainder of the school year. With this news comes many questions. We will continue to update you with these answers as we work through each one. Some questions such as, will there be a senior graduation ceremony, will need time to be answered as we are not sure at this point of when the "stay home" order will be lifted. Know that we will do everything in our power to make this event happen for this very special senior class.

Today, I want to address the Governor's expectations during this unprecedented school closing.

Failing A High School Course as of March 12, 2020: We will be reaching out to any student who was failing a high school course as of March 12, 2020. This will be done to provide an opportunity for these students to earn credit in the class and/or graduate. This is not designed to provide extra credit or extra assignments for students who were passing a course and wish to improve their grade as of March 12, 2020. The reason to not allow for grade improvement is because the district is exploring a credit/no credit policy for this semester. We feel strongly that this is the one way to ensure that all students have equitable opportunity to maintain their pre-March 12, 2020 grade point average due to an incomplete semester. Thank you for understanding that this is an unprecedented time in which we are doing our best to provide equitable educational opportunities for all students.

Seniors: Credit/No Credit will be based on coursework standing as of March 11, 2020. Graduation will be based on the completion of all Michigan Merit Curriculum and Brighton Area Schools requirements for graduation as normal. If you were not passing a required course as of March 11, 2020, please reference the above information. Seniors engaged in Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment, or Online Courses through MVU are expected to complete these classes for Brighton High School, and The Bridge Alternative High School per earlier expectations. Mr. Johnson and his team at BHS and Mrs. Deaven and her team will let you know how we will handle graduation, distribution of diplomas, etc. as we better understand when and if we can hold a ceremony. Teachers will provide continuous learning opportunities for you to enhance your skills for your future goals.

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Grade Promotion: All students will be moved forward to the next grade for the fall of 2020. The district will work with our teaching staff to adjust the curriculum at each grade level to account for the missed content. We feel confident that our currently aligned grade level instructional standards can and will be met when we return to school.

Special education services: Our Director of Special Education, Michelle Allison, will be working with student case workers and her peers to find ways to meet the needs of all our children. Parents will be provided contact information to ask questions and plan for interactions that need to take place to continue meeting State and Federal expectations. A plan for IEP's will also be shared by Ms. Allison and her team as soon as we receive guidance from the state of Michigan related to this item.

Social Emotional Needs: District Counselors will be accessible to all students and parents to address student needs. District principals will communicate contact information for their specific building counselors. Please remember that there are many county services available to help with social emotional needs which our staff can put you in contact with. Just because we are not in school right now does not mean that we are not here for you. If you have a difficult time touching base with a counselor feel free to contact your building or grade level principal for assistance.

Pick-up of Items from School Buildings: With yesterday's announcement from Governor Whitmer, we know that many students and families have questions about picking up items from our buildings. This is allowed under Governor Whitmer's order. We are working on a plan to allow for this while following social distancing and other precautions. As soon as we have finalized this plan and the social distancing protocols are reduced we will communicate the plan with families.

This week in Curriculum:

Online Learning:

We have been anticipating the news about face-to-face schooling being suspended for the year, and have been planning accordingly. We're currently finalizing professional learning opportunities for staff. Thank you to the numerous staff members who have already volunteered their expertise in hosting professional learning sessions.

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Our online learning model will be shared in more detail (start date, schedule, what to expect, etc.) once we submit and receive approval from our Intermediate School District. We have three goals during the remainder of the year:

1. All students have opportunities for continued learning that focuses on Essential Learnings and minimizes instructional loss.
2. All students have a predictable space to connect with teachers/class to meet their individual and social-emotional needs.
3. Students and families are given predictable routines and structures to ensure they stay connected to schools and learning.

With that, we plan to focus on essential learnings, not the ‘doing’ of homework for the remainder of the year. Understanding we're not in a traditional school structure. The model is to hold more asynchronous learning sessions or pre-recorded lessons. This allows the flexibility for students and families to work at their own pace and schedule. Connectedness is another element in the plan and to communicate regularly with families. Lastly, we will use familiar web-based tools and resources that are reliable, vetted, and align to district curricular resources and current practices. Our platform of choice will be google classroom (seesaw for grade JK-2).

Extended Learning Opportunities:

We have provided families with a variety of high-quality extended learning opportunities that will help students remain engaged in learning from home. The link and information can be found by the following: [Week 1](#), [Week 2](#), and [Week 3](#). A new update, Week 4, will come out Monday next week.

This Week In Technology

In moments like our current circumstances, technology may be seen as a natural solution. But challenges remain, because some teachers may be unfamiliar with some of the communication and learning management tools, or families may lack a device or a connection to the internet. The Technology Department’s objectives for the remainder of this school year revolve around two priorities: support, and access and equity. We will continue to prioritize supporting this new model for online education for every teacher and student of Brighton Area Schools. Some of our other, ongoing administrative work involves the need to carefully consider which technology applications are in use, to ensure that issues like data integrity and student privacy are aligned with district policies, and state and federal guidelines. Thankfully, due to our relationship with Google for Education program and our use of their suite of office and communication tools, the students and staff of Brighton Area Schools have data integrity and privacy assurances.

To overcome any student technology deficits, we are planning to provide chromebook borrowing from our own inventory. Be assured, the design for the chromebook-to-family exchange will be compliant with State of Michigan and Centers for Disease Control guidelines, and in alignment with how other school districts are conducting similar loan opportunities. In support of families without a home internet connection, we will also be publishing a simple summary of local, publicly available Wi-Fi. We are working our way through the creation of borrower’s agreements and rounding up the necessary devices, and we will be publishing the details for borrowing early next week.

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The Michigan Department of Education has published a statewide map that provides residents with locations of all of the sites that will be distributing meals to families during the school closures that were ordered by the governor's office.

The map will be updated twice each day during the closure period. Up to two free meals a day are being made available to all children up to 18 years old under the Unanticipated School Closure Summer Food Service Program. Please visit the website shown below for the interactive map to find a location near you.

<https://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/schoolnutrition/>

I hope everyone is well,

Gregory B. Gray Ph.D.
BAS Superintendent

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