

Dear BASD Families:

Within our community, we are all aware that the Coronavirus or COVID-19 has begun to significantly disrupt our lives. We are all navigating the unknown and we all have unique challenges. Our district is not alone in trying to navigate a situation that, at the moment, is ever changing. Most important right now is taking care of yourselves and your families.

**This email shares several announcements.** As of Friday morning, the Burlington Area School District is open. We are making decisions based on what is best for students and at this moment, with no imminent health threat in the Burlington area, it is best for students to maintain their routine. We further understand that these decisions can create hardships, particularly for working parents who do not have child care.

That said, based on how the situation has rapidly developed over the past 48 hours, we are preparing as though schools will be closed at some point. BASD's decisions around whether to cancel school will be based on the guidance of health professionals as well as the impact to us locally. Please continue to watch for updates via email as decisions may be made in increments as the situation evolves.

### **Our current plan for educational programming:**

We will send Chromebooks home with students in grades 1-12 today. Students have been using these in the classroom all year. We trust that students will treat these devices carefully, as families are responsible for damage ([Link to Tech agreement](#)). If you have Internet access at home, please help your student connect the Chromebook. We recognize that we have families that may not have access to internet connections. If you don't have Internet access, students can still use the computer for off-line work.

Teachers are preparing assignments in case a lengthy school closure is necessary. We recognize that expectations for virtual learning will be different than the expectations we have for in-person learning. This means that students won't be expected to sit at their computer for a full day. We will share more information on what virtual learning looks like for your student in future communications.

Students will be encouraged to take everything home today, as if they were leaving for spring break.

Student Services: We recognize that some families depend on the school district for a variety of resources such as food service and counseling. We are working internally to plan how to assist families in meeting needs that the school district provides.

### **Decisions that have been made:**

**School Trips Canceled:** All district-related travel for our students is canceled between now thru March 29, 2020 (and possibly beyond). This is at the recommendation of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the Center for Disease Control. Trip coordinators will contact their group with specifics.

**Large Events Canceled:** All large school events are canceled or will be postponed. As examples, we will cancel the balance of the BHS Musical (performances scheduled for March 13-15) and will reschedule the 4K Screening originally planned for March 18 for a future date.

**Community Events Scheduled in School Buildings:** If schools close, all community activities scheduled to take place in a school building are canceled as well.

**What you can do:**

- If your child is sick, please keep them home. Any student who becomes ill during the day will be given a mask to wear until they are picked up.
- Watch your email for more communication and next steps.
- Prepare yourselves as necessary depending on your unique situation.
- Help your children understand what is happening. [This link provides some suggestions for talking to children.](#)

We also recognize that the focus on education, while important, may take a back seat to your other critical needs like personal health, having food and water, and taking care of one another. This crisis presents us an opportunity to reach out to others with an olive branch and to help one another through challenges we encounter.

Thank you for your patience and understanding and stay tuned for another update soon.