

Hello BASD Families,

Please read the following information related to our school closure. Though schools are closed, we plan to deliver educational programming through virtual learning.

March 16: No school or virtual learning

March 17 – 20: Virtual Learning

March 21 – 29: Spring Break

March 30 –April 3: Virtual Learning

All school activities and activities scheduled in Burlington Area School District buildings are canceled March 14-15, as well.

The health of our students, staff, families, communities is of utmost importance as we support all efforts to reduce the impact of COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released guidelines for school districts on school closures on March 13, 2020.

In consideration of this unprecedented situation in Wisconsin and the nation, the Public Health Departments support school closures for schools to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. Our district website will have the most recent information in regard to this pandemic under the "[coronavirus](#)" tab - at the top right of the page.

Most importantly, the impact of a single case in any one school or district is extremely significant. If one student or staff member becomes infected, everyone who was in close contact will need to be quarantined for 14 days. Close contacts include anyone who spends time, within six feet, of the positive case. When considering the proximity of a school environment, the contacts and exposures grow exponentially, and quickly. We are supporting closures before community transmission is confirmed to greatly reduce further spread of the COVID-19 in the community. We recommend that you follow the CDC and Public Health Department guidelines regarding social distancing and group size for gathering.

During the closure, teachers will continue to provide virtual and continuous learning opportunities. While this does not replace the day to day high-quality learning and teaching experiences we are asking teachers/staff to provide families and students access to engaging, insightful, grade-level appropriate materials that will provide enhanced learning opportunities. We are working with our instructional staff to prepare and plan accordingly.

We apologize for the short notice of this unprecedented community health issue and are working with community partners to provide meal opportunities and other supports. More information will follow in regard to these support services.

Let me reiterate from my email this morning how important it is that you take care of yourselves and family. Remember to show compassion for everyone.

Yours in service and education,

Dr. Stephen Plank
Superintendent

Frequently Asked Questions

How will we accommodate students without Internet access?

For families without Internet access - school staff will print materials to send home. Also, Charter Communications announced it will offer [free broadband and Wi-Fi access](#) for 60 days to households with students.

What do I need to know about the Chromebook my student brought home?

Each student in grades 1-12 has been issued the Chromebook they use in school. They are expected to be responsible and safe. The Chromebook and charger need to be with the student when they return to school.

What about the work packet my student brought home?

If your student brought a printed work packet home (given by their teacher), please begin the packet Tuesday, March 17, 2020.

What Online Resources and Tools I can use to keep my child engaged in learning?

District Librarian Sally Nie has [compiled this list](#).

How much virtual learning is needed to qualify as an attendance day as dictated by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI)?

We are still working out the details of how virtual learning will work. Students are not expected to be online all day. Teachers will not be available all day. The DPI has advised us of the following expectations:

- o Grades 6-12: about 3 hours total
- o Grades 3-5: about 2 hours total
- o Grades K-2: about 1 hour total

What about my travel plans during Spring Break?

Please continue to monitor the latest information and [guidance from the CDC](#) to understand the potential personal risks.

What will happen after April 5?

We don't know. We will continue to communicate decisions as we have answers.