

Dear BASD Families –

While our springtime experience is quite different this year, spring arrived on schedule on Thursday, March 19th in Southeast Wisconsin. As the birds return and flowers start to bloom, as the ground thaws and the daylight lasts longer - a new, long-awaited routine starts to take shape.

Part of our new routine is to share periodic district updates with families. This one is a little longer than usual. We hope that you will take the time to read through all of the information. As always, you are welcome to contact a teacher, principal or district office if you have questions.

Meal Assistance

To better serve the community, we're making a few **changes to the Meal Assistance Program starting on Monday, April 6**. Food service provided 478 meals the first week and 519 meals the second, and 824 the third. Starting on April 6, we will serve out of **seven locations on MONDAY, TUESDAY and THURSDAY only** from 12 noon - 12:30 pm.

Having to pick up meals three times per week instead of five times will be easier on families with limited transportation and allows more time to remain safer-at-home. The four new locations may be more convenient to walk to. Between the three pick-up days, five lunches and five breakfasts will be provided. These free meals are for any children age 18 or younger (or adults age 19-21 enrolled in a public or private educational program).

LOCATIONS:

- Waller School (195 Gardner Ave., door by cafeteria)
- Cross Lutheran (126 Chapel Terrace, parking lot near covered entrance)
- **Bohner's Lake** (corner of Park St. and Robers St., Lois Fago Park near the pavilion).
No longer at Winkler school.
- Lyons Center Elementary School (1622 Mill St., by main entrance)
- **Cooper Elementary School** (249 Conkey St., by main entrance)
- **Michael's On the Lake** restaurant (3101 Eagle Rd., Kansasville, in parking lot)
- Behind **Burlington Fireplace & Solar** (corner of Paul St. and Midwood Dr.)

Educational Materials Pick-up

Some teachers need to distribute materials to students who don't have Internet access or for other special circumstances. Teachers will contact families if they have items to pick up with details. Pick-up (drive-up or walk-up) will take place at Dyer Intermediate School (201 S. Kendrick Ave.) on Monday, April 6 from 12 noon - 6 pm. Materials that can't be picked up will be delivered.

Virtual / Remote Learning

We are impressed with how students have embraced virtual learning. We are compiling some student success stories to share on social media. Each school has a **"Virtual Learning" webpage** with school-specific information. Some teachers may offer video conferencing as

another way to reach out to students. **Video conferencing** allows a class to have a conversation, but we also want to protect student privacy. Here are some reminders:

- Video conferencing is optional.
- Video conferences should not be recorded.
- Student cameras should be turned off.

Grading

As previously communicated, and pending board approval, the 4th quarter will be pass / no pass for grades 5-12 and sufficient / minimal progress for grades K-4. **We expect students to continue learning and we will fulfill our promise to educate Burlington students.** We also want to be realistic about the challenges learning from home presents to some families.

Most students will thrive in their learning regardless of the setting. But we also recognize that our most vulnerable students will also be the most challenged in times of crisis.

We know that we have students who don't have the Internet. We know that some students are the primary caregiver in the home while parents continue to work. We know that we have many students who depend on our interventionists and student services team to succeed. We also recognize that even with our best effort to quickly adapt to virtual learning, there are still some unknowns around how all classes at all grade levels will support students in meeting essential skills.

Further, we have learned from educators who have endured through crisis situations. Hurricanes, tornados, and other disasters created an interruption, but didn't prevent students from still achieving their dreams. This interruption is not only happening to our students in the Burlington Area School District, but to all students. We've posted links to some of the articles we've read on this website (link: <https://www.basd.k12.wi.us/district/grading-articles.cfm#d716010>)

Now is the time for families to nurture their children. Continue to help your child navigate through the disruption of their day-to-day lives. Learning will not only come from the work our teachers assign, but it will also come from playing a board game, learning to change a tire, or doing the dishes. Learning is the objective, not a grade.

This is how we will approach grading for the 4th quarter at different grade levels:

Grades K-4

English Language Arts and Math

- SP - Sufficient Progress
- MP - Minimal Progress

Special areas (art, music, and physical education) will not assign grades.

Grades 5-6

Pass / no pass grades will be assessed for English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies.

- Pass - Student has made minimal or sufficient progress in their academic learning.
- No Pass - Student has not made progress in their academic learning.

Special areas (art, music, STEM, and physical education) will not assign grades.

Grades 7-8

Progress grades for all courses

- Pass - Student has made minimal or sufficient progress in their academic learning.
- No Pass - Student has not made progress in their academic learning.

Other points of note

- Some classes may require final exams.
- Pass / no pass will freeze the GPA as it stands at the end of the first semester. The second semester will not impact GPA.
- For students currently earning high school credits, see grading for grades 9-12.

Grades 9-12

Progress grades for all courses

- Pass - Student has made minimal or sufficient progress in their academic learning.
- No Pass - Student has not made progress in their academic learning.

Other points of note

- Students earning high school credit will have a notation on their transcript indicating the second semester as the "COVID-19" semester, which will explain the reason for a pass / no pass grade mark.
- Some classes may require final exams.
- Pass / no pass will freeze the GPA as it stands at the end of the first semester. The second semester will not impact GPA.
- Class of 2020: GPA will freeze as it stands at the 7th semester and will be used for final transcripts and final class rank.

Assessments

Usually in the spring, BASD students participate in the state's federally required standardized test (Forward Exam) as one input into the state's annual report card. The data helps schools target improvements to ensure students are making progress.

The U.S. Department of Education announced that students impacted by school closures due to the pandemic can bypass federally required standardized testing for the 2019-2020 school year. Wisconsin's Department of Public Instruction will be applying for a federal test waiver to suspend state test requirements this spring. In addition, we will not administer the spring iReady assessment.

No School

Remember that on April 10 and April 13 there is NO SCHOOL. Enjoy the long weekend!

Board Meeting

The next School Board meeting will take place remotely on Monday, April 13 at 7 pm. A call-in number will be made available with the *Notice of Meetings* for anyone who would like to listen to the meeting.

Public comments may be sent via email (to boardcomments@basd.k12.wi.us) by Sunday, April 12 at 7 pm. The email must include the full name and address of the speaker and may not exceed 500 words. Board President Rosanne Hahn will read the comments into the record during the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

Final Thoughts

On Wednesday, April 1, the WI Department of Public Instruction posted new resources — called [Learning During COVID-19](#) (link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/13PwmSBuOpPYjT2Dc9iAyWkWM4H1v8rp6/view>) and [Learning Every Day, Everywhere](#) (link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_PG_fsRP5xG_F1TT_a0TMWqXqglcr7Yy/view). We encourage you to take a look at these documents and note that the focus is how we can all work together as learners, educators, caregivers and families. Further, the suggestion is that we continue to focus on mental health and well being.

We deeply care about the students and families in the Burlington Area School District. Our staff - of nearly 500 employees - is adjusting to working from home. A few still report to work in person, to check on buildings or distribute meals. Our district has been able to donate supplies not being used to medical professionals in Racine County. Construction of the future Karcher Middle School continues to be on schedule, and we have scheduled other facility maintenance projects to be completed in schools.

We are thankful for the positives we see daily. We will let this interruption teach us new skills. We will look for opportunities to help our neighbors. We can only continue to do our best and encourage one another. Thank you for all you are doing to stay safe at home.

Yours in Education,



Dr. Stephen Plank