

April 30, 2020

We are now within the last six weeks of the 2019-2020 school year. BASD sees your children consistently making progress on their schoolwork. Keep up the good work! Here are the latest updates to help keep our families informed.

Learning Logistics

Pick-up Day - Today was a pick-up day. Families will begin to hear about plans to pick-up personal materials such as items from lockers, desks, art projects, etc. Each school has its own plan due to the scheduling of construction projects, limited staff in the building at a time, etc. so please be patient as we work out the schedule.

Meal Distribution - The meal program continues to serve children on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday at seven locations. (link: <https://www.basd.k12.wi.us/district/free-meal-info.cfm>)

- On Monday, May 4 we will recognize Student Lunch Heroes Day! Dress up as a superhero when you pick up the meal to show appreciation for the food service staff.
- NOTE: No pick-up on Monday, May 25 (Memorial Day).
- The program will continue until the end of the school year. We are exploring funding options to offer the meal program through the summer.

Technology - For Chromebook issues, please contact the BASD IT Department by email (basdtech@basd.k12.wi.us) or call 262-342-6883. Schedule an appointment to get a technology issue fixed (Tuesday from 1-4 pm or Thursday from 7-10 am).

Looking to the Future

The Safer-at-Home order on April 16 closed schools for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, which is defined by state statute as June 30, 2020. This means that school buildings and grounds are closed to students for instructional and extracurricular activities through June 30, 2020.

- **Community Ed and Summer Rec:** Though Burlington Community Education remains hopeful that it can offer Summer Rec, camps, and classes in July and August, there are no guarantees.
- **Summer School:** Summer School won't take place in-person in June (as is the norm). The district is exploring possibilities for online summer school or a delayed in-person start to summer school.
- **Fall Back-to-School:** The school calendar has BASD returning to school the week of **August 17** (an early start date due to construction projects during the summer of 2021). District leadership is preparing for different scenarios for the new school year whether in-person or virtual.
- Please understand that decisions around the fall of 2020 instruction will likely be directed by the state or Department of Public Instruction based on the safety of Wisconsin residents.

District News

School Funding: The School Board is currently discussing the preliminary 2020-2021 district budget.

For 2019-2020, the board had to make the tough decision to use general fund balance dollars to balance the budget due to higher than anticipated open enrollment and increases in employee costs related to their continuing education.

Then, when BASD received Wisconsin's budget development information to plan the 2020-2021 budget, the district calculated it would have a funding shortage again this year.

The district plans to cut costs by reducing the equivalent of 2.6 full-time staff through attrition, a reduction in hours, and increasing class size in some courses. This will save the district approximately

\$185,000. Next, the board will make decisions around employee benefits (such as health insurance). However, since the coronavirus, the outlook has become more concerning.

With the COVID-19 health emergency, the state will lose tax revenue. This will likely mean less per pupil revenue for schools. We are preparing budget scenarios to address up to a \$1.36 million deficit. Half of the anticipated budget deficit is related to increased fixed costs within BASD (such as insurance or utilities) and half of the anticipated shortage is due to the potential loss in state funding. To address the shortfall, the board is considering - in addition to employee benefit changes - operational cuts (to building and grounds, technology, and building budgets), and some restructuring of part-time aides.

We continue to pursue any financial options offered due to the pandemic (such as CARES Act funding), though so far these relief programs have not been targeted at K-12 schools.

Attendance Boundary Committee: In the fall of 2021, the district will have five elementary schools serving grades 4K-5. To accommodate this change, the district attendance boundaries will be redrawn. A volunteer committee will make recommendations to the school board that meet enrollment needs, best utilize building capacity, have minimal impact on students, and demonstrate fiscal responsibility. Please read more, including notes from their first meeting, on this webpage (link: <https://www.basd.k12.wi.us/district/attendance-boundary-updates.cfm>).

Construction projects: With school buildings closed, the building and grounds department has started summer cleaning of the buildings. We can also get a jumpstart on summer construction projects. Buildings are being prepared in priority order, which influences when students can pick-up personal items.

Celebrating Class of 2020 and BHS

This week, BHS communicated with the Class of 2020 that commencement will be virtual on Friday, June 5. Throughout the month of May, we will celebrate BHS's 159th graduating class. (link to Class of 2020 webpage <https://www.basd.k12.wi.us/schools/high/activities/class-of-2020.cfm>)

In May, we have students taking their Advanced Placement tests. This is one of several dual credit opportunities. We continue to be impressed with the number of college credits that our high school students earn.

Teacher Appreciation

Our teachers were overjoyed to see students through videoconferencing. We are thankful for the flexibility BASD teachers have shown to adapt their classes for online learning and their willingness to answer student questions outside of usual school hours. May 4-8 is Teacher Appreciation Week across the nation. Send a note to your student's teachers if you have a moment. In the meantime, I want to say thank you to our teachers and staff who make a difference in the lives of our students daily.

Yours in Education,

Dr. Stephen Plank
Superintendent