Dear BWRSD families,

Thank you for your help in making this week a successful first week of Distance Learning. The adage, "Necessity is the mother of Invention" has new meaning in our professional lives as we learn the art of teaching our students from a distance.

Administrators across the district have visited countless classrooms and find lessons and student work amazing. Teachers were able to bring many of the strategies, skills, and support for students that they demonstrate in their traditional classrooms to their virtual classrooms. Additionally, teachers may have also identified new ways to connect, communicate, and confer with students due to distance learning.

You can continue to help teachers in three ways:

1. As you are observing your child’s learning, please don’t expect to see classroom teachers conducting virtual meetings with all students for entire class periods. This is not something that generally happens when students are in school buildings and should not occur in our virtual classrooms. Teachers are striving to find the right balance between virtual support and independent work time in order to develop students’ stamina and level of responsibility as self-directed learners. Your support at home in monitoring your child’s completion of work is greatly appreciated.

2. Teachers will continue to use multiple modalities of teaching including posting assignments, posting videos of themselves or others explaining key concepts, and sometimes hosting Google Hangouts or Zoom meetings. It is important that teachers be allowed the flexibility to decide which modality is appropriate for the concept that is being taught.

3. During the week it has come to our attention that teachers are inundated with emails. In a traditional class setting, the teacher would be asked a question and likely share the answer with the entire classroom. I am asking teachers to review all their emails, bunch them into categories, and then provide answers to the entire classroom. This seems to be a specific issue at the secondary level.

**Contacts for School & District Buildings**

As we continue to operate our schools during distance learning, we want to remind you that we are available to answer your questions. The order of triage for questions is listed below:

1. Classroom based questions should first be directed towards the teacher. See above where we have explained the way that teachers will categorize and answer questions.
2. If the question is a building level concern then please email the appropriate school administrator.
3. District level questions can be directed to the appropriate district phone number or emailed to the respective office.
4. If you need to email me, please feel free to email me at jonathan.brice@bwrsd.org any time you have a question.
Breakfast and Lunch
This week we have served approximately 150 students per day in our meals program. We know that we have more students that receive free and/or reduced price meals and families that may have suffered a job loss are eligible for breakfast and lunch during distance learning. Current locations for food pick up are Kickemuit Middle School, Colt Andrews Elementary, and Hope and Main. Please go to the BWRSD.org web page to complete a Free and Reduced Price meals form. It is electronic and takes a few minutes to complete. This will ensure your student has access for the remainder of the school year to this resource while we are implementing distance learning.

We are working to expand hours of operation and locations for students and families to pick up breakfast and lunch and will share this information next week.

Report Cards
In light of the transition to distance learning and unanticipated early vacation, we have adjusted the report card distribution timeline as follows:

Elementary Report Cards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trimester 2 Grading Period Ends</th>
<th>Report Cards Available to Families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 7</td>
<td>April 20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Middle and High School Report Cards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarter 3 Grading Period Ends</th>
<th>Report Cards Available to Families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 16</td>
<td>April 24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Online Tech Support for Students and Families:
During this time of Distance Learning, we need to ensure that basic questions and concerns about accessibility are answered. To that end we have established an email account for such questions and concerns: BWRSDtech@bwrsd.org. The email account is accessible 24 hours per day, and you can expect a response within 1 school day.

Best Practices in Regards to Caring for Chromebooks:
General Precautions
- No food or drink should be next to devices.
- Cords, cables, and removable storage devices must be inserted carefully into devices.
- Devices should not be used or stored near pets.
- Devices should not be exposed to extreme temperatures, such as leaving it in a car overnight during the winter/summer.

The Bristol Warren Regional School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, religion, National origin, color, disability or sexual orientation in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
Devices should not be used with the power cord plugged in when the cord may be a tripping hazard. Devices must remain free of any writing, drawing, or non-removable stickers. Heavy objects should never be placed on top of devices.

Transporting Devices
- Transport devices with care and in the BWRSD-issued protective cases.
- If no case was available, set the device in a stable stationary area and do not transport.
- Never lift devices by the screen.
- Never carry devices with the screen open.

Screen Care
The device screen can be damaged if subjected to heavy objects, rough treatment, some cleaning solvents, and other liquids. The screens are particularly sensitive to damage from excessive pressure.
- Do not put pressure on the top of a device when it is closed.
- Do not store a device with the screen open.
- Do not place anything in the protective case that will press against the cover.
- Make sure there is nothing on the keyboard before closing the lid (e.g. pens, pencils, or disks).
- Only clean the screen with a soft, dry microfiber cloth or anti-static cloth.

Sincerely,

Jonathan T. Brice
Superintendent of Schools

 ******************Previously Provided Information************************
Please visit our Distance Learning Plan/COVID-19 Info page on our website for all previous BWRSD Community Updates and other helpful information.

BWRSD Community Update 3.26.20
BWRSD Community Update 3.24.20
BWRSD Community Update 3.20.20
BWRSD Community Update 3.18.20 (English)
BWRSD Community Update 3.18.20 (Spanish)
BWRSD Community Update 3.18.20 (Portuguese)
BWRSD Distance Learning FAQs
Notice re Meal Access During Closure.March 17.2020
BWRSD Community Update 3.13.20