

BWRSD Virtual Learning for School Closures: Information for Families

Dear Families/Guardians,

As we approach the winter months we want to make sure students, teachers, and families/guardians are prepared for possible snow days or school closures. In the event of a school cancellation due to inclement weather or emergency conditions, the Bristol Warren Regional School District (BWRSD) may have a virtual learning school day that will count as one of students' 180 days of instruction. The following information describes what learning will look like on virtual learning days.

Virtual Learning Expectations for Instruction and Student Participation

Used During School Closures Due to Inclement Weather or Emergencies

Daily Schedule PK-12: 8:30-11:30am Synchronous Instruction, 12:00-2:00pm Asynchronous Learning

The BWRSD has received approval from the R.I. Department of Education to use virtual learning in the event of school closures due to inclement weather or emergency conditions. Families will be notified via the R.I. Broadcast System and text/email when there is a school closure. The following guidelines outline expectations for virtual learning and student participation. Families should contact their school principals if they have questions or concerns regarding virtual learning days.

EXPECTATIONS FOR INSTRUCTION

Learning Components

ALL Virtual Learning days *MUST include at least three hours of synchronous instruction* to be counted as an instructional day. The remainder of the day may include asynchronous learning activities.

Synchronous learning. Will take place from **8:30-11:30am** for students in grades preschool to grade 12. This requires that students must log into their device to participate in instruction. The time is used for virtual interaction between teachers and students for direct instruction, modeling, or when collaboration and brainstorming are needed. This includes live direct instruction or modeling, whole group or small group breakout sessions, live discussion, formative assessment, 1-on-1 or small groups with breakout rooms, or interactive sessions—to reinforce learning. ***Your child must be logged in and participate during lessons from 8:30-11:30am.***

Asynchronous learning. Will take place the remainder of the day. This is time for students to apply their learning and complete tasks assigned during synchronous learning lessons. It is one-way communication where teachers provide feedback after the fact. Asynchronous learning may include short recorded lessons or directions by the instructor, posted assignments that are completed by students and uploaded for instructor feedback, or short student-created presentations or videos that can be viewed later by the teacher or peers. ***We suggest students complete asynchronous learning assignments from 12:00-2:00pm.***

Attendance will be based on participation in lessons and completion of assignments.

Schedule

Students and families will be notified of the schedule for Virtual Learning days by principals before 8:30am.

The schedule will be based on the following:

- Must include at least 3 hrs of synchronous (live) instruction to be counted as an instructional day
- Instruction will be based on the recommended timeframe below, however, project based, extended learning activities aligned to curriculum standards may also be assigned.
- Students will have 30 minutes for lunch. 5-10 minute activity breaks are encouraged throughout the day
- Teachers will post assignments by 8:30am and include the date/time assignments are due. If a class meets later in the day then their assignment may be posted at a later time.
- Students should check their Google Classroom throughout the day.

Communication and Learning Management

PK-2 teacher teams will use *SeeSaw* and grades 3-12 teachers will use *Google Classroom* as a platform and management system for virtual learning. Teachers will provide students and families with information on accessing the Google Classroom or SeeSaw and expectations for submitting assignments.

Student Support Services

Appropriate accommodations and modifications will be made for students with IEPs /Section 504, and multilingual learners during virtual learning days based on their IEP or MTSS intervention plan.

Technology Support

It is important to note that students cannot access SeeSaw, Google, or other online instructional systems or documents using a “personal account”, they must use their @bwrds.org accounts. This is needed to maintain security and protect student data privacy. If families need assistance with technology access during Virtual Learning Days they can contact BWRSDtech@bwrds.org.

INSTRUCTIONAL TIME FOR VIRTUAL LEARNING DAYS	
Grades PK-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Attendance and Synchronous: Morning Meeting
Preschool	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The Preschool schedule will be shared by your child’s teacher
Grades K-5	<p>Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 1.5 hrs. Synchronous<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 30 mins. <i>Into Reading</i> Foundational skills○ 15 mins. <i>Into Reading</i> Vocabulary○ 15 mins. <i>Into Reading</i> Comprehension- Read Aloud○ 30 mins. Reading Acceleration - Small Group● 20 mins. Asynchronous: <i>Into Reading</i> Response to text (i.e., drawing and writing in response to text)

	<p>Math</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1 hr. Synchronous <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 30 mins. <i>iReady Math Classroom</i> lesson ○ 30 mins. Math Acceleration Small Group ● 30 mins. Asynchronous: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 20 mins. Math Assignment Work with Teacher Support ○ 15 mins. fluency practice or <i>iReady Math</i> adaptive software <p>Science or Social Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 20 mins. Asynchronous Assignment <p>K-5 Specials (Co-curricular) Based on scheduled special for that day. May be scheduled during Acceleration Block</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 30 mins. Synchronous Lesson ● 20 mins. Asynchronous Assignment
Gr 6-12 Content Courses and Electives	<p>Based on six 30 mins classes per day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 30 mins. Synchronous Lesson ● 20 mins. Asynchronous Assignment ● Students who were supposed to participate in Work based Learning or off campus learning will contact their CTE teacher and our College and Career Coordinator, Dr. Nicole Lyons nicole.lyons@bwrdsd.org
PK-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 30 mins. Lunch ● 5-10 mins. Activity Breaks (2-3 throughout the day)

Virtual Learning Support Roles:

Teacher Assistants

- Teacher assistants will collaborate with grade/course level teachers to establish a schedule for student support, check-ins, and assistance. They will attend synchronous instruction.

Support Specialists

Special Education, Reading Specialists, Math Specialists, MLL, Speech & Language

- Collaborate with grade/course level teachers to provide necessary accommodations for students on their caseload.
- Provide intervention lessons consistent with student IEPs and RtI Plans.
- Contact students daily/weekly (individual or virtual group meetings).

Student Support Providers


Nurses, Guidance Counselors, Social Workers, Psychologists

- Daily/weekly check-ins with students and families at risk.
- Weekly contact with teachers to monitor student progress.

Please review the following with your child:

VIRTUAL LEARNING: EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS

Virtual learning requires that teachers and students work together differently and digital citizenship is important for us all to remember. Here are some expectations to create a respectful and productive learning environment:

- You must participate in lessons and complete assignments to be considered present, otherwise you will be marked absent.
- When participating in virtual meetings, such as Google Hangout or Zoom:
 - Keep your camera on unless your teacher tells you otherwise,
 - Wear school appropriate clothing,
 - Be mindful of your backgrounds. If it is behind you, the others in your group/class can see,
 - Be sure to mute your microphone to avoid background noise,
 - Turn your microphone on to add to a conversation, and then shut it off again,
 - Avoid talking over some else by listening and waiting for a pause in the conversation,
 - Be respectful to peers and teachers,
 - If your teacher allows, use the Chat feature- the message icon on the  right side of the screen - click on it and a sidebar will open that you can add or respond to a question.
- Make sure that what you say and write online (through chats, emails, and discussion boards) is always related directly to the assignment. This is not a social media platform.
- Put your best effort forward on all assignments and use appropriate language and writing skills (complete sentences, capitalization, and punctuation) for writing assignments.
- If you are contacting your teacher outside of the 8:30-2:00 PM hours, please email them and they will get back to you.
- Contribute to online classrooms and meetings in ways that make learning meaningful and fun for everyone!