Dear BWRSD families,

Today's announcement that we will conduct distance learning for the remainder of the school year was not unexpected, but we are deeply saddened that we will not be able to learn, laugh, and work with our students in school. BWRSD will continue to support our students' academic and social emotional needs via distance learning. Now through the last day of school, June 18, we will work with students, parents, and staff to develop ways to recognize and celebrate our students.

We are determined to celebrate our graduating seniors, our students transitioning from elementary to middle and middle to high, and all other students and staff for their perseverance and effort during this unprecedented time. The celebrations will attempt to honor the traditions students in prior years have experienced despite the need to implement these activities in a virtual environment. A group of MIHS students, parents, and staff are working to identify activities for virtual celebrations in June and an in-person graduation sometime later in the year. We will ask PTO leaders from the other five schools, students, and staff to work in school-based groups to help us identify celebratory activities.

Thank you for your continued support of your student(s) and our teachers as we navigate distance learning in BWRSD.

Jonathan Brice  
Superintendent of Schools

Today's update has information about the following topics:
- Virtual Support Day - Friday, April 24, 2020
- Distance Learning Extended to End of the School Year
- Communicating with our Teachers
- Distance Learning Resources
- Community Based Support Services
- Surveyworks Extended to April 30
- Preschool Registration Still Open
- BWRSD Online Tech Support for Families
After listening to feedback from staff, students, and families we have decided to designate Friday, April 24 as a Virtual Support Day for students. This day will be used to provide additional support to students and their families. During the week, teachers will post assignments for the full week of learning and conduct lessons Monday through Thursday. The Virtual Support Day will be a day of self-directed learning for students. They will be responsible for checking in for daily attendance and completing the lessons assigned for that week.

In the event that students have missing assignments, need additional instructional support, or are in danger of failing a class, they will be required to attend a support session with their teacher(s) during Virtual Support Day.

Schools will establish a schedule of office hours for teachers and support specialists to be available to students throughout the day for support. Teachers will make students aware of the time of their scheduled support session. For example, at the elementary level, the schedule might be based on:

- 9:00-10:00am: Math
- 10:00-11:00am: ELA
- 11:00-12:00pm: Support specialists, Health/PE. Library Art, Music, Library
- 12:00-1:00pm: Lunch
- 1:00-2:00pm: Support specialists, Health/PE. Library Art, Music, Library

During the remainder of the day, other appointments with students and families may be set up as needed. Teachers could also use this time to work with school support staff to monitor student progress and engage in planning for instruction and intervention. The goal of this day is to support the continued success of students and staff.

**Distance Learning Extended to End of the School Year**

Commissioner Infante-Green and Governor Raimondo announced today that schools will remain closed and distance learning will continue for the remainder of the school year. RIDE will issue a recommended statewide calendar for May and June. The last day of school will be June 18, 2020.

During the upcoming weeks, we will develop guidance related to end of year activities. We want to ensure that students have the opportunity to reconnect (virtually) with their peers and be supported in their transition to the next grade level.

RI’s approach to distance learning was recently highlighted in this Boston Globe [article](#). We are extremely proud of the work going on in BWRSD as reflected in this Bristol Phoenix [article](#) on Rockwell School. Thank you for all you are doing!

**Communicating with our Teachers**

BWRSD is fortunate that our parents are positively engaged in the teaching and Learning process. Your efforts, during this pandemic, have helped to make distance learning successful. Because you may have access to virtual classrooms and teacher emails it is important that we continue to practice communication etiquette.

When visiting your student’s virtual classroom please reserve comments until the end of the classroom if the teacher provides an opportunity for parent comments. If the teacher does not
provide an opportunity for parent comment please send the teacher an email with your question. Additionally, some teachers may host a Google Hangout and leave the session open throughout the day so students can ask them questions eliminating the need for a separate email.

While teachers welcome the ongoing communication with families it is often difficult for them to respond to the many emails they receive from students and families in one day. Please be patient in waiting for their response.

**Distance Learning Resources**
- [Thrive Outside](#) has some great ideas for Earth Day (week) at-home activities for students including a [Make Your Own Obstacle Course Contest](#)
- Thoughts on Deeper Learning Jal Mehta, a leading researcher on Deeper Learning at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, shares some thoughts on how to foster deeper learning through remote instruction. (He also provides his thoughts from a parent perspective as he has a 6 and 9 year old.) [How to Deliver Deeper Learning During the Coronavirus Shutdown](#)

**Community Based Support Services**
Thank you to our BWRSD Support Staff for compiling this [list](#) of community based support services for staff, students, and families in need.

**Surveyworks Extended to April 30**
Please help us and complete RIDE Parent SurveyWorks. If you have not yet completed it, please access the survey at the link below and use the code that is unique to your child's school. This data is useful to our district in numerous ways, in school improvement planning, professional development, and budget development.

[https://surveys.panoramaed.com/ride/login](https://surveys.panoramaed.com/ride/login)

**SurveyWorks School Codes:**
- Mt. Hope High School: 96107family
- Kickemuit Middle School: 96112family
- Colt Andrews School: 96105family
- Guteras School: 96104family
- Hugh Cole School: 96113family
- Rockwell School: 96106family

**Preschool Registration Still Open - Spots still open for 3 year old Peer Models**
BWRSD is still accepting applications for age 3 preschool community partners. The integrated preschool program will be open Monday through Friday mornings with sessions at Hugh Cole School in Warren. This program will begin in September, 2020, and will follow the BWRSD school calendar. Preschool students should toilet independently, and have appropriate social, behavior and language skills.

For those interested, applications can be found on the district's web site at: [https://ri02200022.schoolwires.net/Page/1261](https://ri02200022.schoolwires.net/Page/1261)

Completed applications can be emailed to: Michelle Cordeiro, Early Childhood Outreach Coordinator, mcordeiro@bwrsd.org
Coordinator (michelle.cordeiro@bwrsd.org)

**BWRSD Online Tech Support for Families**
If you experience any issues with your student’s device or while working on certain applications online, please send an email to our Technology Helpdesk at BWRSDTech@bwrsd.org for tech and software application support. The email account is accessible 24 hours per day, and you can expect a response within 24 hours Monday-Friday. Thank you for your patience.

Sincerely,

**Jonathan Brice**

Jonathan T. Brice, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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**BWRSD DISTANCE LEARNING PLAN/COVID 19 INFO**

Visit our website link above to view more information about the following: 1. BWRSD Distance Learning Plan 2. Parent Resources for Google & Seesaw Classrooms 3. COVID-19 Information 4. BWRSD Community Updates