

Dear Brookfield Families, Faculty and Staff,

I hope that you are doing well. I write to update you on items involving the status of school closure, school calendar, general information, and a few operational updates now that we have transitioned to *Distance Learning*.

School Closure

At this time Governor Lamont has closed all CT schools until April 20th.

April Break

On March 13th I communicated that April Break will remain as scheduled to provide as much continuity and normalcy as possible for families.

Updating the School Calendar

The Board of Education and I will be discussing the adjustments to the 2019-2020 school calendar at its regular meeting scheduled for April 1, 2020, at 7pm. The meeting will be streamed live as it is conducted. On April 2nd, I will publicize the Board approved, updated calendar, which will include the official last day of school.

Graduation

The Board of Education approved the BHS Graduation Date earlier this year and it will **remain on June 20, 2020.**

Below, I have summarized the three phases we have journeyed through over the past 14 days of this monumental transition from *Traditional Schooling to Supplemental Learning, and finally, to Distance Learning.*

Phase I: Prepare for *Supplemental Learning* – Complete (school closed March 13th)

Establish a compendium of resources in addition to our *Supplemental Learning* resources sent on Monday, March 16th

Phase II: Week One *Supplemental Learning*/ Prepare for *Distance Learning* - Complete

Collaborate with our teachers, week of March 16th, to establish guidelines, training, planning and expectations for leading *Distance Learning* with students – launch on Monday, March 23rd

Phase III: “*Going the Distance*” – Our First Week is Complete

- a. Establish a framework and guidelines for students and families
- b. Provide devices to those students in our district who do not have one
- c. Launch *Distance Learning* on March 23rd

Providing Lunches

Providing lunches from 11am–12:00am at BHS (all students are eligible). We will begin providing lunch for Saturdays & Sundays by handing out 2 additional lunch bags on Friday, April 3rd to each student for the weekend.

Food Service will follow the following Distribution Protocols and we need your help in practicing safe social distancing, etc.

- Please drive up to the curb for pick up with your passenger door facing the school. This way we can continue to socially distance.
- Avoid touching anyone when handing out/accepting food (no handshakes, high-fives, elbow touches, hugs, etc.).
- Do not lean into or out of car windows to provide food.
- Maintain distance of 5-6 feet between people, including staff.
- Enforce strict protocols that meal recipients line up 5-6 feet apart to receive meals.

Health Offices/Nurses

At this time all of your child's ***medications, epipens, inhalers and any medical supplies*** have been safely stored in the health clinics at each school. If the return date of April 20th changes, the nurses will be following up with a separate communication.

Beginning Monday, March 30, 2020, school nurses will be available to parents and guardians to assist you with health and medical concerns for your children. Please contact our School Nurses via district e-mail to ask them any health related questions regarding your children.

Brookfield High School Nursing Staff:

Roberta Mateer: mateerr@brookfieldps.org

Cassie Skabardonis: skabardonisc@brookfieldps.org

Whisconier Middle School Nursing Staff:

Patricia Richards: richardsp@brookfieldps.org

Anna LaForgia: laforgiaa@brookfieldps.org

Huckleberry Elementary School Nursing Staff:

Besa Kelley: kelleyb@brookfieldps.org

Nicole Werner: wernern@brookfieldps.org

Center Elementary School Nurse:

Beth O'Connor: occonnorb@brookfieldps.org

Phone Calls

To protect educator privacy, faculty, staff and administration will utilize *67 when calling parents from their personal cell phones. Emailing your child's teacher or administrator remains a reliable and efficient means of asynchronous communication.

School Field Trips, Activities, Events & Athletics

While all trips, activities, events and athletics are suspended during the school closure, some may remain in a state of postponement, while others have been canceled. Since school related activities are managed by each school, please direct inquiries regarding trips, events, etc. to the appropriate coach, advisor or school administration.

Graduation Requirements

On March 16, 2020, Commissioner of Education, Dr. Cardona, directed all CT school districts to provide all students with continuity of instruction to the greatest extent possible via Distance Learning. Our current on line learning policy coupled with a newly adopted policy for online learning specific to COVID-19, which is scheduled for BOE discussion on April 1, 2020, will support all of our high school students in utilizing Distance Learning to meet BHS graduation requirement.

State Standardized Testing

The CT State Department of Education applied for and was granted a waiver to cancel all state testing for this year. This means that SBAC for Grades 3-8 is canceled.

The School Day SAT is also canceled. College Board will be scheduling make up testing for those students registered for SAT. Be on the lookout for further communication from the high school team.

In light of these unprecedented times, the faculty and staff are thrilled to have the opportunity to be working with your children through this new approach to schooling.

Thank you for learning alongside of us while together we *Create Tomorrow* and embark on *Distance Learning* for all students.

Sincerely,

Dr. John W. Barile

Superintendent