

Administration and School Buildings are Closed until 4/30/20 or until further notice as per Governor Wolf.

Important Messages from the Superintendent

March 31, 2020

Dear Elementary Staff, Students, Parents/Guardians, and Community,

I wanted to take this opportunity to inform you that Governor Wolf has extended his order to close all K-12 Pennsylvania schools “until further notice” amid concerns regarding the continued spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). The District’s closure will now extend at least until the statewide closure expires. Also, as the stay-at-home order continues for Bucks County, all Bristol Township School District facilities, including district buildings and athletic fields remain closed until further notice.

Continuity of education is the continuation of teaching and learning in the event of a prolonged school closure. Our District remains committed to helping each student realize success. An Online Learning plan will become effective on Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at the secondary level and then sometime thereafter at the elementary level. It will remain in effect for the duration of the period of mandated school closure. The third marking period is now closed, and we will pick up on the fourth marking period starting Tuesday, April 14, 2020. Teachers (K-12) will finalize all third marking period grades by the end of the day Wednesday, April 8th. Grades will be live in the parent portal for parents by Friday, April 17, 2020.

At this time, BTSD’s Continuity of Education plan is one of enrichment and review at the elementary level. We will be distributing packets to our elementary students which contain both Math and ELA content on Thursday, April 2, 2020, at Brookwood Elementary, Keystone Elementary, and Truman High School. The Math and ELA skills contained in these packets are based on content the students studied throughout the year, up until the school closure in March. The packets can also be accessed online at our district website and your local elementary school’s website beginning Thursday, April 2, 2020.

At the elementary level, we will begin rolling out devices starting with our 5th grade at Brookwood, Keystone, and Mill Creek. As Chromebooks are distributed to a grade, we will move to the next. As each grade is completed, we will begin online instruction and move away from the packets.

We hope that all parents can help their children develop an at-home schedule for learning where they can have parental support if needed, as well as a learning space that is free from distraction. The District's goal is to help our students learn, and we will not penalize students because they cannot, for any reason, make the shift into this new format for learning. We realize we are asking parents to take on new roles and engage with their children differently--and we are grateful for their dedication. We recognize that each family has a different set of circumstances and do not want to overwhelm or cause any additional anxiety or stress.

Please note that the District will hold its Spring Break, in accordance with the approved 2019-2020 School Calendar, which calls for vacation days on Friday, April 10, and Monday, April 13. There will be no remote learning instruction or assignments for students on these dates.

We fully understand that there will be several questions that remain. We are awaiting guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education on graduation and registration that should be coming soon. We are working on answering these questions as quickly as possible as we work through establishing new expectations through this challenging situation.

We sincerely appreciate your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melanie Gehrens".

Melanie Gehrens, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools
Bristol Township School District