

March 25, 2020

Dear Bristol Township School District Families, Staff, and Community,

As per Governor Wolf's announcement on March 23, 2020, schools in Pennsylvania will be closed through Thursday, April 9, 2020. We will continue to keep you updated as things evolve.

As we move through week two of the mandated closure and have heard Monday, we will be off another week with students permitted to return April 9, I want to acknowledge the many, many people who were difference-makers this past week. Perhaps you were served a free meal by one of our staff, connected with a teacher or administrator, or sent a note of kindness for those in our community who are doing good things. Or maybe you helped to clean and sanitize our buildings to make them safe for everyone. Maybe you saw a post on social media that gave you an engagement idea and social-distancing activities, or saw a video, post, or note from staff to say, "we miss you". Perhaps you've been diligent about social distancing and engaging in healthy hygiene practices. Whatever you've done, on behalf of all the staff in our school community, thank you.

As each day goes by, as more tests come back positive, as community spread is upon us, and as the situation continues to change at a rapid pace, I think it's safe to operate on the assumption that our schools MAY possibly have another delay after this one. Please continue to follow [CDC's guidelines](#) as we all navigate this situation on a day-to-day basis. District communications and [COVID updates](#) can be found on the district website under News.

### **Technology Deployment**

In helping our community with access to technology, we have started the process of deploying Chromebooks and hotspots to those that have expressed a need. We are starting at the secondary schools and moving to the elementary next. At this time, we ask that you only request a device if you do not have one device per two children or one device per home. If you missed the first survey, there will be another next week.

### **Technology Support**

Our technology department will continue to support the needs of our students and staff during this time. We will continue to provide support based on appointments. [Click here to schedule an appointment](#) should any technical issues arise.

### **Continuity of Education**

At this moment, we continue to explore the possibility of a formal continuity learning plan opportunity for our students and are using the guidance we received Monday from the state to assist with our planning. We are working through our concerns around equity and access and providing our best faith effort in meeting the needs of all our students in the community. For now, the district has made [Learning Resources](#) available on our website for review and practice activities.

### **Buildings**

Every Bristol Township school building has been deep cleaned and we are now ionizing each. At this time, we are using the Harry S Truman High School and Franklin D. Roosevelt cafeterias on a limited basis for food distribution, and the district office for technology exchange and essential business operations. No other access has been permitted.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and understanding during this unprecedented and rapidly evolving public health crisis. As soon as I have any updates, I will share them with you.

Stay safe and well.

Best Regards,

*Melanie Gehran*

Melanie Gehrens, Ed. D.

Superintendent of Schools

Bristol Township School District