

Update – March 23, 2020

Parents & Patrons,

May I begin by saying, WHAT A DAY! During multiple moments today, I had to fight back tears. I personally witnessed the love shared between the children of our community and our amazing educators. Most of our staff described the initial run of “Bronco Bus Bites” as excruciating, because they so wanted to hug their kids (students) but were not allowed to do so. They were so excited to see their students, and I truly believe the students were excited to see them.

I must give an immense amount of praise to our Child Nutrition staff. They answered the call, which was in no way easy, with a nearly miraculous effort. THANK YOU!!!! I also want to thank our entire transportation department from drivers to director to contractors for what they pulled off today with little to no preparation. THANK YOU!!!! Lastly, I wish to thank all the family members of District 55 who came out in droves to help the children of our community. THANK YOU!!!!

Today, during our first run, we served over 2,200 meals to our community. We anticipate tomorrow will be even bigger as the word gets out regarding what the community of Blackfoot can accomplish once we come together. We must admit, there were a few hiccups, but we hope to improve on those as we continue this program. Parents, please keep one thing in mind. Our special education buses often run in the same neighborhoods as our regular bus routes. Our special education buses can only stop at the houses they are assigned. They cannot stop at our regular bus stops. If your children see one of these buses driving by, please help them understand another bus, which will stop at their bus stop, will be by shortly. PLEASE, PLEASE, do not let them run after the buses. Also, please encourage your children to maintain proper social distancing, rather than congregate in groups. We will make sure every child at each stop receives a meal. We want to do our best to follow the CDC guidelines while we continue this program. I apologize for mistiming the “tiered” bus routes at Ridge Crest and I.T. Stoddard. It appears those second runs will start earlier than I anticipated. I would suggest being at the bus stop by 11:30 A.M. for the “tiered” routes which I identified in my previous update.

Academic Materials

For students in grades K-6th, we will be delivering academic support packets beginning tomorrow. We will have them available both on the bus routes for delivery and at the school site for pickup. We will do our best to make sure every child receives the packet they need. However, please be patient with us as we work through this. If we happen to make a mistake or miss someone, please talk with the staff members on the bus route, or call the school and leave a message, and we will do our best to sort it out for Wednesday. Most packets are designed for a two-week period; however, we know some students will need more. We will announce more supplemental materials for our elementary students on Monday, March 30th.

Special Education Packets – These materials have been individualized based on the needs of the student. The packets can be picked up on site, between 11:00 A.M. and noon, where your child attends school. If this is not feasible, please communicate that to the staff member on the bus route or call the school and leave a message. We will do our best to make the needed adjustments for our Wednesday bus run.

In closing, today was amazing for me. I was quickly reminded of the exact reason why I chose education as my career. I love our students, I love our staff, and I love our community. I am looking forward to an even better tomorrow!

Sincerely,

Brian Kress