

Update – March 26, 2020

Parents & Patrons,

Another amazing day, with 2,492 lunches delivered today, we are confident in the belief we are maintaining an “essential service” for our community. Our employees have done their best to adhere to the proper social distancing guidelines set forth by Governor Little. Today was very much a teaching day where we spent some time helping our students understand the new format for lunch and school material delivery. All in all, it went very well. There are a few things I need to share with our parents:

1. Please help us adhere to the social distancing guidelines. We know our students want to gather and catch up with each other, but we want to help prevent the spread of this illness rather than being the cause of its increase in our community. PLEASE, PLEASE HELP US!
2. If you need assistance from the school, please call the school and leave a voicemail. We have set it up for all voicemails to be emailed to administrators and secretaries. PLEASE LEAVE A VOICEMAIL. We will get back to you.
3. Secondary academic materials will begin to be distributed on Monday. There will be more details regarding this process in future updates, but here is a glimpse:
 - a. MVMS – The plan for 7th & 8th grades is to try and send out the academic materials via email or Google Classroom. After the initial attempt on Monday, the MVMS staff will make arrangements for hard copy materials to be picked up.
 - b. IHS – Each IHS student was given a district email prior to the school closure. Please have your student monitor this email for information from the school. The staff at IHS will focus on seniors who are on track to graduate. After these students have been setup with materials, the staff will begin to work with other students.
 - c. BHS – The administration at BHS has already sent out emails to all BHS students. Please make sure your student has responded to this email. We anticipate having academic materials posted on the BHS website beginning Monday. After Monday, the BHS advisory teachers will begin reaching out to students we have not heard from to find out the best means to deliver the needed material.
4. We know that some elementary students will need more materials to help keep them occupied. On Tuesday, March 31st, we will be delivering additional elementary support materials:
 - a. Imagine Learning access information (Reading & Math)
 - b. Pearson Math Curriculum support access
 - c. SORA – Library Book online access
5. Once we return from our official spring break, we will be asking staff members to make frequent contact with families and students. The priority of this contact is to; first ensure the well-being of our students, and second, ensure our students have received the academic materials they need.

In closing, I need to make you aware that we still need to wrap up some unfinished business within our District. Before all this began, the District was exploring the possibility of transitioning to a 4-day school week. We had planned a public input meeting to be held, however, we had to cancel that meeting due to gathering restrictions. Tomorrow morning, I will send out another communication, and it will have NOTHING TO DO WITH COVID-19, but it will request input about the 4-day school week. I know there have been some concerns about this transition. I will speak to those more in tomorrow’s communication. I would hope that through this situation, you have seen that the Blackfoot School District, and its leaders would not do anything that would intentionally harm our students. These same leaders would do almost anything to mitigate any perceived negatives regarding a proposed change. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Brian Kress