

Update – April 27, 2020

Wow! It has been a while. I believe things have gone relatively smooth the past couple of weeks. Sure, hiccups arise, but we are doing our best to address any concerns. Thank you for your patience with us during this time. I have been completely impressed with the effort put forth by our teachers. I can only speak with assurance regarding my own household, but we have been in consistent communication with my children's teachers. I hope the same can be said throughout the community. If you are struggling with consistent communication, please reach out to me, and I will help overcome the obstacle that is impeding the communication. Please understand specific concerns about classes or schools will be forwarded to the administrator and teacher involved. I will do my best to facilitate the needed communication.

I am pleased that Governor Little has created a reopening plan for our State. We will do our best to adhere to that plan until we are able to return to normalcy. With that in mind, I need to address a couple of items that will be occurring in the near future:

School Registration

Kindergarten – 6th Grade: We will be sending out a link to an online registration document for parents to enter the needed information. The link will also be posted on our Facebook page and our District website on Wednesday, April 29th. If your student is currently enrolled in one of our elementary schools, the only thing you will need to do is complete the document and your child(ren) will be registered for the 2020-2021 school year. If your student will be a new kindergarten student, or a student new to the district for the 2020-2021 school year, there will be a link on our website which has the needed forms for new student registration. You will be directed to the website once you have completed the online registration document. If you are unable to complete the documents online, we will have them available for pick up at any of our elementary schools and our district office. If you have any questions about this process, please contact us at 208-785-8800 or email me: kresb@d55.k12.id.us

7th Grade – 12th Grade: This is where things become a little trickier. Secondary registration will follow a similar format as elementary registration. We will provide parents with a link, also on April 29th, to an online form, or forms can be picked up at Mountain View Middle School, Blackfoot High School, or Independence High School. The completion of these documents will be necessary for the schools to identify who will be attending for the 2020-2021 school year. The process for class selection will be created and distributed by each of the schools. Please be on the lookout for later communication from the school regarding that process. If you have any questions about this process, please contact us at 208-785-8800 or email me: kresb@d55.k12.id.us

Graduation: The School Board asked that we survey the graduating class with respect to their wishes about graduation. The high school administration has been tasked with that assignment. Please be on the lookout for a request for input which will be distributed through your student's school email. I have always held on to hope that we would be able to hold a

traditional graduation ceremony, however, with the Governor's guidelines I must concede that we will likely need to begin planning an alternative for this year's graduation. We will do our best to update our seniors and their families as soon as things start coming together.

Collection of items from desks and lockers: With the Governor's stay at home order set to expire on April 30th, we are beginning the discussion on how to facilitate this and still maintain proper social distancing guidelines. These procedures will be communicated by each school building. As soon as schools have created a procedure that will work for their buildings, I will inform students and parents.

High School Grading: The statement I have referred to over and over again when addressing this current situation was given by the State Board of Education, "It is our hope no student, who is currently on course for graduation, will not be harmed by the procedures used to address the COVID-19 situation." I have done my very best to address the needs of our students and their families while not dismissing that desire from the State Board of Education. I must admit, I share that same desire. With that in mind, I have come to the realization that our decision to award only P's for passing and I's for incomplete may indeed harm some students. I have asked the high school administration to work on a process whereby students can request a letter grade if they desire. I have to admit some students were hoping to improve their G.P.A.'s during this last trimester and maybe become eligible for enrollment and even scholarships at a university. I have been informed all universities in Utah have extended their scholarship window to allow for final grades to be posted on a student's transcript. Once the high school has finalized a process for letter grades to be requested by students, I will let you know.

I hope this information helps answer some questions. As always, please feel to reach out to me if you need more specifics: kresb@d55.k12.id.us Thank you so much for your patience and support during these times. Blackfoot is an incredible community and I am so blessed that my family and I call it HOME.

Sincerely,

Brian Kress