

Parent Update

March 16, 2020

BISD Parents/Guardians:

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate these uncharted and rapidly changing issues related to the coronavirus. We have been in daily communication with state and local health departments, the Region 4 Education Service Center, and the Texas Education Agency. We have also been monitoring the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance and updates.

Beginning on this Wednesday, March 18, and continuing while campuses are closed, BISD will provide Remote Learning opportunities for students. We know Remote Learning will look different for each grade level and the various course offerings. Remote Learning can include internet based (high technology) or paper pencil assignment packets (no technology.) Not all PreK-12th grade subjects or courses will be included. We understand that we may not be able to reach every student, but we will try! Our staff has been working diligently preparing for these learning opportunities. Again, it will look differently based on grade levels, subjects, technology and no technology options. You will hear more information from your child's teacher or campus.

Safety is our top priority, so the last thing we want to do at this time is overwhelm our teachers and students with Remote Learning. It is not our intent for students, teachers, or parents to become stressed over this. We understand that the learning experiences from being in school cannot be replicated with Remote Learning, however, Brazosport ISD is very advanced in our digital learning platforms. For many students and teachers learning can continue while schools are closed. Offering Remote Learning also allows us to not have to make up the school days missed due to school closures.

When we return to classes we will have a new absence code for coronavirus. These absences will be counted as EXCUSED as long as schools are making an attempt to provide some form of Remote Learning. Parents may choose to keep their student home from fear of the virus. We will offer these students Remote Learning and use the coronavirus excused absence code. We have a number of students who are considered medically fragile, have suppressed immune systems, or respiratory illnesses. We want to offer parents of these students Remote Learning options immediately upon returning.

A few days ago, you should have received a notification requesting information on the recent travel history of your student, along with a few other questions. If staff or students have traveled to any Level 3 areas identified by the CDC in the last two weeks, we will follow their recommendations for students and staff to stay home for 14 days from the time of arrival back

home. Below is a link of what are considered Level 3 countries. This list is fluid, with more countries being added each day. If you have traveled to a Level 3 country please be sure to complete this form and stay home for 14 days.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/after-travel-precautions.html>

While schools are closed, we will offer curbside "grab and go" food service for students at certain designated campuses, and set up food distribution in certain neighborhoods across the district. As you know, we are extremely fortunate to have a very generous and helping community. At this time, we do not need volunteers to help distribute food. We need to practice "social distancing" and avoid creating large gatherings of people. Food can be picked up from 10 AM to 2 PM at Ney, Ogg, and Velasco Elementary Schools. We will set up distribution of food at SF Austin Elementary School in Jones Creek from 10:30-11:00 AM, Northgate Apartments in Freeport from 11:15-11:40 AM, Avenue J Apartments (at the entrance to Casa Quintana) from 11:45 AM to 12:30 PM, and Griffith Elementary School from 1-1:30 PM.

We did receive notification today from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) that all state STAAR assessments are canceled for this school year. We know there will be some flexibility and local control for seniors who still need to pass state exams to graduate. We will receive more guidance from TEA regarding this soon.

At this time, we are scheduled to be closed through Friday, March 20. We will continue to conference daily with health experts and the Texas Education Agency to make the safest decisions for our students and staff for when to return. We do understand the negative impact on our students and parents from schools being closed. If you have questions, please consider using our Just Ask feature on our website. [Just Ask!](#) or www.brazosportisd.net/community/just_ask

I would also like to express my sincere sorrow for many of our students who have been impacted by the recent cancellation of events. In BISD, we believe in the vital importance quality extracurricular programs have in providing our students outstanding learning experiences. We also know how hard our students work and how much time they commit to these games, events, and programs. I am truly sorry so many are missing these experiences.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through this. We will get through this together. Be safe.

Every day is a gift,

Danny Massey
Superintendent of Schools
Brazosport ISD