



PARENT NOTIFICATION

March 31, 2020

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. As we get closer to entering week four of school closures in Pennsylvania, we have started to plan for a potentially longer closure, if deemed necessary. The teachers and staff have been hard at work planning for the future. To this end, we sent out an additional survey regarding technology and our teachers have been following up with any family who has not completed the survey.

Work for week three will be in the form of iReady lessons for Math and Reading. Students that do not have access to technology should complete any remaining work in the packets previously provided. Moving forward, we have arranged for continuity of education which includes enrichment and review. Students have been identified and grouped based on grade level and access to technology. Students in kindergarten through fourth form one group. Students in grades five through eight identified as having consistent access to technology form group two, and students in grades five to eight having limited or no access to technology form group three. Please see each section below for additional information. All students will be provided with the enrichment and review materials best suited for them.

Students in Kindergarten through Fourth Grade

Students in kindergarten through fourth grade will be receiving paper packets of review and enrichment materials for the month of April. Packets will be available for pickup outside the school on Thursday, April 2, 2020 between 1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Packets will be mailed to families who are unable to pick up their packets at school. Students with internet access will also have the option of completing iReady lessons, in addition to the printed material provided by teachers.

Teachers will also post a video on their webpage each Monday morning by 11:00 a.m. These videos can be accessed by visiting www.bearcreekschool.com and selecting *Teacher Web Pages* from the Faculty dropdown. The Monday morning video will provide parents and students with a summary of the activities students will be completing in their packets for the week, as well as additional helpful information from the teacher.

In addition, teachers will be hosting virtual meetings with students and parents on Thursdays and Fridays utilizing the Zoom software, be sure to check with your monthly calendar for more details. Information regarding times of the meetings and how to join will be provided on the monthly calendar accompanying each student packet. Zoom meetings are designed for teachers, parents and students to check in with each other and discuss any questions about the work assigned. Zoom meetings can be joined using a computer, tablet, smartphone or by dialing in via phone.

Students in Grades Five through Eight with Limited or No Access to Technology

Students in grades five through eight with limited or no technology will receive a paper packet for the month of April. Packets will be available for pickup outside the school on Thursday, April 2, 2020 between 1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Packets will be mailed to families who are unable to pick up their packets at school.

The work students complete in packets will be of similar content to that provided in Google Classroom. For example, in English Language Arts, students will all be reading the same novel but may be completing different activities to accompany the novel.

Teachers will also post a video on their webpage each Monday morning by 11:00 a.m. These videos can be accessed by visiting www.bearcreekschool.com and selecting *Teacher Web Pages* from the Faculty dropdown. The Monday morning video will provide parents and students with a summary of the activities students will be completing in their packets for the week, as well as additional helpful information from the teacher.

In addition, teachers will host virtual meetings with students using Google Meet software on Thursdays or Fridays, please check the monthly calendar for more information. Information regarding times of the meetings and how to join will be provided on the monthly calendar accompanying each student packet. Google Meets are designed for teachers, parents and students to check in with each other with any questions about the work assigned. Google Meets can be joined using a computer, tablet, smartphone or by dialing in via phone.

Students in Grades Five through Eight with Internet Access

Students in grades five through eight with internet access will be provided work weekly through Google Classroom. The work in Google Classroom will be of similar content to that provided in paper packets. For example, in English Language Arts, students will all be reading the same novel but may be completing different activities to accompany the novel.

Teachers will post work each week. Teachers will also post a video on their webpage each Monday morning by 11:00 a.m. These videos will provide parents and students with a summary of the activities students will be completing in their packets for the week, as well as additional helpful information from teachers.

Teachers will also host virtual meetings with students using Google Meet throughout the week. Information regarding times of the meetings and how to join will be provided in Google Classroom. Google Meets are designed for teachers, parents and students to check in with each other with any questions about the work assigned. Google Meets can be joined using a computer, tablet, smartphone or by dialing in via phone.

Additional Support

Supporting our students and families during this challenging time is important to our school family. All of our staff are available to support you as necessary. Do not hesitate to e-mail school staff during this period of school closure. A complete list of staff contact information is available on the school's web site at www.bearcreekschool.com --> click on *Faculty* at the top of the page --> click on *Staff Directory* from the drop down menu. Some key contacts are as follows:

Melanie Leo, School Counselor
melanie.leo@bearcreekschool.com

Jillian Seeley, School Psychologist
jillian.seeley@bearcreekschool.com

Jennifer Smith, Math Specialist
jennifer.smith@bearcreekschool.com

Larissa Soroka, Literacy Specialist
larissa.soroka@bearcreekschool.com

Tina Vojtko, RN – School Nurse
tina.vojtko@bearcreekschool.com

Kim Stevens, Director of Student Affairs
kim.stevens@bearcreekschool.com

Kristen Young, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
kristen.young@bearcreekschool.com

Bridget Deeble, Director of Intervention & Support Services
bridget.deeble@bearcreekschool.com

Jim Smith, Chief Executive Officer
jim.smith@bearcreekschool.com or (570) 991-0766

Crisis Information

We encourage families to continue to seek reliable information relating to the COVID 19 pandemic from the following sources:

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)
www.cdc.gov

Pennsylvania Department of Health
<https://www.health.pa.gov/>

As we continue to move forward in uncharted territory, we ask for everyone's continued patience and support. Know that our staff deeply miss our students and wish nothing more than a return to school, which many consider a second home. Teachers are available to answer any questions you may have about student work. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with questions as well. Be safe, and know we will get through these challenging times together.

Thank you,

Kristen Young, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
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