



PARENT NOTIFICATION

March 29, 2020

As we begin week three of the COVID-19 pandemic, I hope all of our students and families are doing well. Although the Governor anticipates schools reopening on Wednesday, April 8th, current data suggest school closures will most likely extend beyond that date.

I would like to thank our staff, parents and students for continuing to be engaged in the learning process, including sharing activities, stories and photos using social media. We appreciate everyone's efforts to ensure students remain engaged in the learning process, and recognize how important parents are in the learning process – we need your help at home to keep children learning – in some way, shape and form.

For this coming week (Week #3), we ask students to finish up any remaining educational activities from last week – including logging into iReady and finishing any lessons that are not complete. We have a draft Continuity in Education Plan we will be discussing tomorrow morning with our staff, and details will be distributed to parents shortly thereafter. The first phase of the plan covers the month of April, and includes engaging students and parents using Google Classroom, Google Meet, Zoom, as well as hard-copy materials and novels.

Along with online materials, we are currently planning to have hard-copy resources available to pick up later this week (we are waiting for the delivery of a shipment of novels). Right now we are thinking Thursday afternoon. Classroom teachers, learning support teachers and support staff will be reaching out to all students this week; some teachers have already done so.

The plan will include posting introductory videos on each teacher's web site along with a weekly learning plan, and online interaction with students (and parents) at the beginning of each week and at the end of each week. Students without internet access will receive hard-copy material, and will be contacted by their classroom teacher weekly via telephone.

Stay tuned for more details on Monday, March 30th.

We will also strive to continue to support students who have an Individualized Education Plan or a Section 504 Agreement, while school is not in session. Once school resumes, we will conduct a thorough review of each IEP and 504 Plan to determine how the time out of school has impacted each student, and will take the appropriate steps to ensure students receive additional educational supports, as may be necessary.

The nature trails on campus remain open to the public so families can enjoy some fresh air. Remember, if you visit our campus we ask that you respect others and respect the six feet of separation at all times. We also ask that you do not utilize the playgrounds or picnic tables at this time.

Bear Creek Community Charter School students residing in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District can pick up a free Grab & Go Lunch each day, Monday through Friday, while school is closed. Grab & Go Lunches will be available from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at every Wilkes-Barre school except Meyers and Coughlin High Schools. Thank you to the Wilkes-Barre Area School District for collaborating with us on this effort! If you live in any other district, you can call your local district to inquire about free lunches or call Help Line of Northeastern Pennsylvania at (570) 829-1341 for community resources.

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/>

Bear Creek Community Charter School will continue to keep our stakeholders informed via PENS alerts, social media, e-mail newsletters, and our school web site. We ask that parents check the school's web site daily – particularly the web page of their child's teachers.

I appreciate everyone's understanding as the situation continues to evolve.

Please tell your children we all miss them, and look forward to seeing them soon. Please stay safe and stay healthy!

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