



www.bearcreekschool.com

PARENT NOTIFICATION November 7, 2020

Dear Parents,

Early today, we learned that a second staff member who was last in our building on Thursday, has tested positive for COVID-19. After applying CDC criteria, the decision was made on Thursday to require two additional staff members to quarantine outside of school. As a precaution, additional staff members have been tested and are awaiting results. Staff members who were in close contact with the individuals who tested positive have been contacted. The parent of students who were in close contact with one of the individuals have been contacted. Close contact with students in this situation was very limited. The Pennsylvania Department of Health has been notified and may also follow up with specific individuals as part of the contact-tracing process.

Bear Creek Community Charter School has taken extraordinary measures to keep the in-person learning process in place to the greatest extent possible, while working to ensure the safety of students and staff. That being said, we also were prepared to take further action if we felt we could not continue to operate while ensuring people's safety. Although there is no direct evidence of "in-school spread", with two staff members testing positive, we also cannot conclusively rule out that there is not a correlation between the two individuals.

That being said, the health and well-being of our students and staff is most important. **Effective immediately, Bear Creek Community Charter School will transition to 100% virtual/Remote learning. This will begin with Monday, November 9, 2020 and will last for approximately 30 days. We anticipate to return to our hybrid learning model on Monday, December 7, 2020.**

Parents are asked to check the web site of their children's teachers later tomorrow or early Monday for specific details/instructions about the new process for learning. Monday's educational expectations will be limited, and will most likely include independent/asynchronous activities such as online lessons using the iReady software. Virtual learning in earnest will begin on Tuesday. All students are required to actively engage and participate in the online learning experience. The School's attendance policies and the state truancy law applies.

We ask that parents utilize their children's teacher's web pages as the primary source of instructional information. Teachers will provide regular updates. You can also e-mail your child's teacher using their e-mail address, which is provided on the School's web site.

We will be working to make iPads available to those families who have no other technology to use. Details will be posted on the School's web site on Monday. Our Chromebook shipment is currently in a warehouse in Ohio. Once we receive the devices and have time to configure them, will share with you a plan to get a new Chromebook in the hands of every student to support online learning.

Although we believe in-person learning is the best option for children, we must recognize the environment in which we are living and must take the impact of COVID-19 seriously. We have been communicating with our parents and other stakeholders regularly, and have been asking everyone to prepare for the decision to transition to remote learning. The time has come. We understand that doing so will create an additional burden for parents, students and staff – but this decision, at this particular time, is in everyone’s best interest.

Web Site: www.bearcreekschool.com

Teacher Web Pages: www.bearcreekschool.com/teacher.php

Teacher E-mail Addresses: www.bearcreekschool.com/docs/directory.pdf

Please continue to monitor the School’s web site, as well as the individual teacher’s web sites, for developing information.

Jim Smith
Chief Executive Officer