



**BEACON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**

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Dr. Matthew Landahl
Superintendent of Schools

March 18, 2020

Dear Beacon Community:

I hope everyone is doing ok. I wanted to take a moment to update everyone on our progress in the district for dealing with this state of emergency.

Status of the School Closing

A few days ago the Governor issued Executive Order 202.4 which closed all schools in New York State from March 18-April 1. Over last weekend, on Saturday the Governor ordered schools to use their remaining snow days, snow makeup days, and spring break during this closing. We have four unused snow days and six makeup days which includes four days of spring break. So this creates two scenarios:

Scenario 1- Everything is ok on April 1, students and staff return to school, and we only would still have Friday, April 10 for a Spring Break.

Based on the current state in New York and our country, I think this scenario is unlikely. This is my opinion.

Scenario 2- The Governor issues another executive order closing schools in New York State for an additional period of time farther into April.

Based on the current state in New York and our country, this seems like the more likely scenario. We need to be prepared for a longer school closing than April 1. This is just my opinion.

Meals Program

The meals program has been a huge success and thanks to Karen Pagano and her team for pulling it together so quickly. Next week, we will be moving to just Monday and Wednesday pickups at BHS from 10:00-10:30 and South Avenue from 10:30-11:00. On Mondays you will be picking up two breakfasts and two lunches per child and on Wednesdays you will be picking up three breakfasts and three lunches per child. We will remind folks about this on Friday and over the weekend. We are also trying to develop a longer term plan for transporting some meals into different neighborhoods.

If you are having issues getting to the meals program because of illness, self-quarantining, disability or something else, please email Matt Landahl at landahl.m@beaconk12.org with your name, your children's names, your address and cell phone#. We have a number of volunteers who will drop the meals off next week at your doorstep.

Continuity of Education

On Friday, March 13 we asked our teachers to create 10 days of work for students either in learning packets or digitally. At the time of our request we did not know that schools were going to be closed later in the day. I explained to every school faculty in the district last Friday that they were not advancing their curriculum with this work or creating a distance learning plan in one day. I asked them to create supplemental learning materials that students can do to bridge the gap for the time of closure until we can come up with a better plan. I do ask that all students take the remaining days to attempt to do the work in the next week and a half but I am not asking teachers to be providing distance learning at this time.

So here is the next step. Our administrative team will be working with a group of teachers over the next week and a half to create some common understandings of distance learning, develop professional development, and develop a plan so all of our teachers are ready **to start distance learning the week of March 30th**. I anticipate us beginning our program in the middle of that week. We have about a hundred more questions we need to answer about how we will pull this off but we are committed as a district to making this happen. I will provide updates on this work on a regular basis throughout this time. A huge thanks to our teachers for dealing with all of the curveballs the last few days.

In closing, it has been heartening to see the community and staff of the Beacon City School District rise to the occasion of this State of Emergency. Thanks to everyone for making things happen!

Sincerely,

Matt Landahl
Superintendent of Schools

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