



Coronavirus Update 14

1 message

Superintendent Obeng <superintendent@bsdvt.org>

Mon, Mar 30, 2020 at 9:21 PM

Reply-To: superintendent@bsdvt.org

To: superintendent@bsdvt.org

Greetings BSD Community,

I hope this update finds you and your family well as we see today the virus spike up in the U.S. We are now certain it will get worse before it gets better. Fortunately, we know that precautions of physical distancing and preventive hygiene work to save lives. We need to be vigilant in the coming weeks.

We appreciate your patience and support while we, like other school districts, adapt our instructional delivery model in line with the directives from Governor Scott and the Vermont Agency of Education (AOE). BSD will continue to offer students "maintenance of learning" options as we work to prepare for the next phase, which the AOE refers to as "continuity of learning." ***This weekend, the AOE issued new guidance which extends the "maintenance of learning phase" an additional week.*** Districts will be required to provide the AOE with remote learning plans by April 8th and students will begin the "continuity of learning" phase no later than April 13, 2020.

Several parents have begun reaching out and recommending that we do more online instructional learning and do it sooner than the AOE guidelines suggest. I do appreciate the advocacy for student learning, but we must follow the direction of the AOE.

Maintenance of Learning to Continuity of Learning Plan (Remote Instruction): First and foremost, BSD is committed to the social and emotional well-being of all of our students. Our staff is currently working on these new remote plans which will offer suggested structures and supplemental learning opportunities. The aim is to design plans that respect and mitigate equity gaps (with specific attention to our students with disabilities, our English language learners, and our students experiencing challenging times), while at the same time preparing students for post-secondary opportunities and higher education.

Continuity of Learning Timeline

March 28th - AOE shared Structure of Design:

- I. Communication and Routines
- II. Structures for Student Success
- III. Instruction and Assessment
- IV. Ensuring Accessibility

April (first week) - Further guidance due from AOE on remote instruction to students.

April 8th - BSD submits Continuity of Learning Plan to AOE for approval and feedback.

April 13th - Teachers begin Continuity of Learning, emphasizing all four elements of design.

AOE Waiver Regarding Testing and Accountability Provisions: The AOE announced that it received approval for its waiver request from the testing and accountability provisions of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. We will communicate out when we know more about how this impacts BSD specifically, but broadly this waiver means Vermont will be able to forego administering some or all of the statewide assessments (the Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBAC), the Next Generation Science Standards Assessment (VTSA), the Vermont Physical Education Assessment (VTPEA), and the Vermont Alternate Assessments (VTAA) in the spring of 2020.

Burlington Technical Center (BTC) Update: We service approximately 300 students from around the region at BTC. All 12 BTC programs have set up online learning and resources, and students will also be engaged in the "Continuity of Learning Plan." BTC instructors are working diligently, communicating directly with students. BTC's Student Services Coordinator, EL Coordinator, and Guidance Coordinator are working with our teachers and sending school staff to ensure students have the support they need to complete assignments. And Director Breen has been working with the VT Association of Career and Technical Education Directors and the VT Agency of Education as we move forward in this together. If you have any questions please contact Interim Director Kris Breen at kbreen@bsdvt.org.

Paper Packets: As we continue to work to meet the AOE's guidelines regarding maintenance of learning, we want to make sure families are getting the materials that best meet their needs. If you need printed curriculum materials, [please click here to let us know](#).

Technology Update: Last week we surveyed our K-5 families to see how many people in our District need technology devices for their students. (Grade 6 to 12 are already on a 1:1 computer program.) We also began looking through our current Chromebook inventory to see how many we are able to provide for our families. Our first assessment of the data shows that we should have enough devices for students in grades 3-5. We will be working to get those devices out as soon as possible and will then shift our focus to younger grades. Anyone still needing devices, please contact your principal.

Student Mental Health & Resiliency: During this pandemic, we have been connecting with students not only to check on their academic tasks but also to engage and support mental well being. We have students who have not responded to their teachers and we want to ensure your children are physically and mentally well. There could be a variety of reasons that we haven't heard from students, but we ask that you or your student check in with your teacher or staff at your school if you have not done so yet.

Strategies for Resilience: In times of great change, your social environment can also affect your emotional energy. Practicing strategies in resilience is critical for our students and families as we endure towards the future. There are many resilience models parents can refer to, but I will leave you with a few quick points from my own personal experience and readings to get you started:

TIME - We need to remember this is a snapshot in time this crisis will end at some point - Anticipate the emotional arch towards eventual closure.

DON'T OVER-BLAME - Don't spend your time over-blaming the situation or people - move to solve what you can.

TAKE ACTION - "Individual action has collective impact." Stay within your own jurisdiction - Do what is under your control - Don't waste excessive energy on other's actions.

PLAN FOR THE FUTURE - Stay positive while being realistic, and plan for next steps.

BE IN THE MOMENT - Find something you like doing and laugh when you can.

Thanks for reading. Please stay in touch.

Superintendent Obeng
www.bsdrv.org/covid-19-coronavirus-prep-in-bsd

For supports and services now contact:

BSD Student Support Services: Laura Nugent, lnugent@bsdrv.org or (802) 864-8456 ext 17082

Howard Center: (802) 488-6000

First Call: (802) 488-7777 for crisis care. (If you experience a longer than 15-minute wait, call again.)

Updated Chart from [Vermont Department of Health](#):

Positive test results*	256
Total tests conducted	3,930
Deaths+	12
People being monitored	219
People who have completed monitoring	546

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