

Superintendent  
Keith Cowan



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3/27/20

Dear parents, families and staff members,

This morning the Governor announced the closure of schools for the remainder of this school year. I want to assure you that BPS in strong collaboration with our School Board is working diligently on a learning plan for our seniors and pre-k -11th grade. We plan to share the details of this plan the week of April 6th. Again, I want to reassure you that the High School team will be working with all students especially the seniors so that they complete the necessary coursework to receive their diploma. I know these are very difficult and uncertain times. One thing is for certain, BPS is committed to supporting your child with a continuous learning plan, which focuses on academics, and well-being. We are currently looking into technology options as well as guided content packets for distribution. Beginning on Wednesday BPS will provide meals for multiple days to limit the number of times families have to pick up. Students don't have to all be present and we are excited to share some new menu items with you.

Here are some important things you need to know:

- Office hours where families can connect with teachers and staff will be established.
- BPS is developing a continuous learning plan, which will provide resources to all students. The focus will be on learning opportunities and not about grades.
- The PED waiver will remove the requirement for seniors to attend a minimum of 1,080 hours. All students are still required to complete at least 24 credits of required and elective coursework. End of semester final grades should be calculated, reported and transcribed in the school's student information system. PED is encouraging schools and districts to adopt a pass/fail grading system for the last grading period.
- We are working closely with our technology department and exploring ways to support families through technology.
- All state assessments have been waived by NMPED for this school year.
- The formal teacher evaluation process has been waived for this year although teachers and staff will still receive meaningful feedback for continued growth.
- Special events such as prom, graduation, concerts, and athletic events are postponed for the time being.
- NMPED recommends the following for direct instruction delivery
  - Pre-K : 30 minutes
  - Grades K-1: 45 minutes
  - Grades 2-3: 60 minutes

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Grades 4-5: 90 minutes

Grades 6-12: 30 minutes per teacher (3 hours max in a day)

- The guidelines above are meant for any delivery model -- packets, on-line, hybrid, etc. Additional reading time or storytelling is always encouraged. Teachers may find that they have to adjust after their first week.
- There will be no traditional, face-to-face AP exam administrations. Students can take a 45-minute online exam at home. For each AP subject, there will be two different testing dates.
- Case managers and ancillary staff will be reaching out to students who receive special education services.
- Counselors will be available to provide support to students and families.

Although things will look a bit different and will not replicate the type of classroom setting our brick and mortar schools offer, we are confident that working together we will ensure high levels of learning continues for all students while addressing their social and emotional needs. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me or your child's principal/teacher. We are all here to support each other.

Sincerely,

Keith Cowan

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