



WITTENBERG-BIRNAMWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Garrett Rogowski, Superintendent

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April 1, 2020

Students and families in the Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District,

I hope this letter finds you healthy and safe as you continue to follow the Safer at Home Order we seem to all be adjusting to these past couple weeks. The intent of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding important items you and your children may be wondering about as we prepare to navigate through a period of virtual and at-home instruction. Our staff is working diligently to prepare lessons and activities that support a continuum of learning from the point where our students left off before the mandated closure began. Additionally, I want to thank all of you for your patience and understanding in allowing us the opportunity to 'get this right' so that our students are afforded the best educational experience possible under these conditions. That being said, we encourage you and your family to use this time at home in any positive way you can. Don't stress about school. If you're struggling with something, life will go on. If you're frustrated, walk away from it for a while. You are not expected to be doing homework 7 hours a day- the schedule is fluid and needs to be. We are all in this together! If you have any questions regarding the following, please do not hesitate to email me at grogowski@wittbirn.k12.wi.us or your building principal and teachers for further clarification and more importantly, support. We are here to help and assist in any way we can. We miss you and look forward to being your greatest advocate!

Instruction:

First and foremost, it is very important to regularly check the district website and social media sites, teacher emails, and any other resources your child's teacher may be utilizing. They will communicate this with each student so there is no confusion about what resources they should be using. As of now, virtual/at-home instruction will occur until further notice.

- **PK-4 Grade (Materials will be mailed to each residence.)**
 - Each student's teacher will mail an instructional calendar and supporting materials for the timeframe of April 6th - 17th. We will be mailing these out no later than Friday of this week. These resources will be shared in hard copy format so each student has access to all learning materials.
 - We will continue with this 2-week process until we are back in regular session.
- **5-8 Grade (Materials/Chromebooks are to be picked up from the school each child attends on April 7th between the hours of 8:00am and 3:30pm)**
 - Prior to April 7th, staff will prepare Chromebooks for distribution and include any hard copy materials that need to be provided to students for the timeframe of April 7th - 17th.
 - Chromebooks will be issued and ready for pick up on April 7th in the building your child attends. Instructions and contact information related to Chromebook operation and use will be included in each packet.
 - Students without internet access may request hard copy resources from their teacher.
- **9-12 Grade (Virtual/At-Home Instruction Continuing)**
 - Virtual instruction began March 30th. Any questions regarding this process can be addressed with your student's classroom teacher. Students without internet access may request hard copy resources from their teacher.

Is the work assigned mandatory? Is it going to be collected? Is it graded?

- **PK-5** We strongly suggest all work be completed to the best of your ability. As it will not be officially graded, we are asking that it be submitted if the teacher requests it.
- **6-8** All work assigned is mandatory. All work will be collected and graded, but grading for the remainder of the school year can only improve a student's grade from where they left off in mid-March. Teachers can provide more details if requested.

- 9-12 All work assigned is mandatory. All work will be collected and graded and can impact a student's grade. Students enrolled in dual credit and CAPP classes will follow current academic requirements.

How do I contact my child's teacher?

Students with internet access will be able to use email, google classroom or any other preferred method they work out with their classroom teachers. For students and families that do not have access to the internet (please see below regarding internet availability), the next best option would be to contact your child's building principal and they will ensure your message gets forwarded to the intended teacher, who will contact you as soon as possible.

Internet Availability

For those that do not have internet access in the home, please know that all three school parking lots can be used as internet hotspot sites. We have also been informed that NTC in Wittenberg and the Wittenberg Telephone Company parking lots are available hotspot sites. Feel free to utilize any of them at your discretion.

Breakfast and Lunch Program:

Grab and Go bags will be available for pick up every Monday from 9:00-10:00am and 5:00-6:00pm at the following locations: Wittenberg Elementary School, Birnamwood Elementary School, and Galloway Community Center. Food bags are for children 0-18 years of age and are available while supplies last. Each bag contains five days of school breakfast and five days of school lunch. If you require a special dietary meal, check the school district's website or facebook page for additional information.

Food Pantry Schedule

The Wittenberg Food Pantry will resume their regular business schedule. Distributions will be on the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 5:00-7:00pm and the 3rd Thursday of every month from 9:30am-11:30am. If families are unable to attend the regular distribution hours, please call the food pantry at 715-253-2576 and leave a message with your name and call back number. A staff member will return your call to set up an alternative time/date.

We are excited to continue providing instruction and support for our students and families in whatever method is necessary to ensure quality learning experiences continue to be afforded to all. Your feedback is greatly appreciated and considered in our current and continued planning.

Sincerely,
Garrett Rogowski