

March 9, 2020

Dear Bellevue School District Learning Community,

We are thankful for your patience as we navigate this evolving and complex situation with COVID-19 (coronavirus). **We want to reiterate that there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 (coronavirus) in the Bellevue School District at this time.** Public Health – Seattle & King County **continues to recommend that schools remain open.** Public Health has made their guidance available in several languages. Please see the [Public Health website](#) for translated documents.

### **If You Choose to Keep Your Student Home**

For families who are choosing to keep their students home from school, please continue to communicate absences to your school's attendance office. We will be following our [policy](#) and [procedure](#) for excusing work and/or permitting students a reasonable amount of time to make up any missed work for excused absences. If you plan to keep your student out of school for an extended period of time, please contact your student's teacher(s).

At the middle and high school levels, teachers will continue to post assignments and instructional materials on OneNote and other web-based platforms. At the elementary level, many teachers already utilize web-based tools and resources which students will be able to continue to access while out. Additionally, grade-level teams are putting together reading and home resources students can access while away.

Teachers are increasing those efforts given the increased rate of absences. However, our teachers' primary instructional focus is on maintaining regular instruction for the students who are in attendance. At this time, we do not have the capacity to offer assessments online. We are reviewing options.

Students seeking additional resources can take advantage of the homework help and tutoring provided by the [King County Library System](#). Through our partnership with KCLS, all students enrolled in BSD schools have access to a [KCLS e-card](#).

### **Instructional Support Opportunities in the Event of Closure**

As we mentioned in our Friday [message](#), we are refining our plans for providing instructional support opportunities in the event of school closure. Our plan will include learning resources for our students that will be delivered in a variety of ways, including electronic and print resources. Our educators and staff will meet this Wednesday to be trained on how to facilitate these instructional experiences. For parents of middle and high school students, please make sure your students are bringing their laptop and power cord home from school every day.

Please note, these instructional support opportunities are not meant to replace the learning that currently happens in our classrooms.

In the event that we do make the decision to close, we will have contingency plans to support all of our students academically. These plans will include provisions to support our high school seniors, students who are preparing for essential assessments (e.g. Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate exams), and students who need support to be on track for graduation. In addition, we are finalizing plans to provide nutritional and supervisory supports to students, as needed.

**Stay Connected**

Our decisions may change as this situation evolves. We are committed to providing you with timely and accurate updates. We will continue to update our [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) page daily](#). We want to express our appreciation for the patience and support of our Bellevue community as we work through the daily challenges COVID-19 (coronavirus) has presented us.