

Finding Our Inspiration and Resiliency

April 10, 2020

Dear Bellevue Learning Community:

This week Governor Jay Inslee announced that our schools will be closed for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. At this time, it is normal that we all feel a sense of loss. Loss of connection between educators and students. Loss of connection with familiar friends and activities. Loss of rites of passage for graduating seniors.

As a community of learners, I also believe this is an opportunity to look deep within ourselves and utilize the resiliency that lives in all of us. Despite our separation and setbacks, we have learned to thrive in new ways.

- Our bus drivers instead of transporting children to and from school are now delivering life sustaining meals.
- Our nutrition services staff are preparing and serving 2000 daily lunches and breakfasts.
- Our school nurses and childcare staff are teaming up to create safe environments for our students whose families work in healthcare or as first responders.
- Our technology staff are ensuring students have the tools they need to access learning at home, delivering nearly 2600 laptops and over 400 Wi-Fi hotspots.
- Our educators, staff and students are engaging in remote learning opportunities with critical support from parents.
- Our seniors received important information through a virtual town hall about our plan to support them this spring.

These examples of resiliency are inspiring. They are also not without extreme effort from all of us. With that in mind, next week's spring break should be a time for us all to recharge and rest. Take time to find moments of joy and peace in our daily lives, despite what is going on around us.

We have deep appreciation for our labor partners from SEIU, MEA, IUOE, IAM, PAC-B, CTSA, and BEA. We have spent countless hours collectively trying to figure out our opportunities to create the most positive impact we can on the lives of our students, families and staff. What we have seen affirms the commitment of our educational professionals, knowing that we depend upon each other to serve our students.

Our buildings may be closed however, learning and innovation are open for our students, educators, and staff. We will work to fulfill our vision and mission for our students in this new environment. Look for a message next week, detailing our learning road map and plans for the remainder of the year. Until then, thank you for supporting us on this journey during this momentous time in our history.

In partnership,

Ivan Duran
Superintendent
Bellevue School District