

May 15, 2020

Bellevue Learning Community:

It has been 45 days since we last met in person. But during this period, despite considerable disruption, much has been accomplished. The buildings may be closed, but Bellevue School District remains open for learning.

From the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, it was our obligation to take concrete steps to preserve and even enhance our education model. Along the way, it was necessary to engage in some restoration, reconstruction, and re-design. However, even though the pandemic changed our everyday routines and patterns of life, it never changed our vision, mission, and [shared values](#).

Currently, we are refining our continuous learning plan and adapting support for our students and educators. Thanks to our strong partnership with families and educators, [our latest findings](#) show that we have made great strides in engaging students in their education, even though we are physically distant. When we began measuring student activity on Microsoft Teams in March, 14 percent of our students did not participate. As of last week, that percentage was cut in half to 7 percent, and our educators and staff continue their outreach with the ultimate goal of connecting and engaging with every student.

The health and safety of our students, staff, and community continue to be of paramount concern to us. As a result, we will need to maintain some level of physical distancing over the summer. For this reason, our summer programs will be limited and provided remotely. At this time, we are planning to offer limited remote summer school with a focus on learning support in the following areas:

- Literacy for current 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students
- Math support for current 5<sup>th</sup> grade students
- High school credit recovery and support for incomplete coursework
- Additional areas based on data and need

Unfortunately, some programs such as summer camps, Operation Exploration, and Ideation will not be available this year. More information about our summer programs will be provided in the upcoming week.

We have also created several workgroups to plan for the fall. Our planning includes a comprehensive review and examination of plans emerging from other school districts, states and countries. Ultimately, our plans will be dependent on guidance we receive from state officials in Olympia, but it is imperative that we start our planning process now.

To assist us in the planning process, I invite you to take our [family survey](#) if you haven't already. Feedback from our learning community is critical to improving how we serve our students and families during this time.

We know that the impacts of COVID-19 will be long-lasting academically, emotionally, and financially. The future is uncertain, but our goals remain the same. As we move forward, we will make decisions based on our vision, mission, and shared values. This will be our guide as we staff schools, deliver education, and confront difficult issues. We are committed to serving each and every student academically, socially, and emotionally so that they are equipped to learn and thrive as creators of their future world.

I thank all of you in our learning community for your care, concern, and support of Bellevue School District and our students.

In partnership,

Ivan Duran  
Superintendent  
Bellevue School