

May 8, 2020

Bellevue Learning Community,

I hope this message finds you well and thriving during these challenging times. Over this past week I have had the opportunity to share with our larger community all the work that we have accomplished over the last several weeks. I am appreciative of the kindness, compassion, and grace that is weaved into our story. Our collective community effort is apparent in the numerous examples of how we have come together to support and serve each other in this uncertain and challenging time.

[Service](#), and our commitment to it, is one of our shared values. If you haven't already, I invite you to use our [Let's Talk! App](#) on our website. It is our commitment to our families and community to provide answers to your questions, connect you with resources quickly, and recognize the contributions of others during this unprecedented event. If you would prefer a phone conversation, we invite families to call our Essential Resources Hotline at (425) 456-4470, which is staffed during the week by English, Spanish and Chinese speakers from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Our priority of [Exceptional Staff](#) is critical to our value of service. At BSD, we believe that a diverse and highly skilled staff are key to the success and well-being of our students and community.

In that light, I would like you to join me in thanking our amazing educators as a part of [Educator Appreciation Week](#). Our educators have quickly adapted to the new remote learning model and have been innovative in keeping our students engaged and learning. An educator is defined as someone who helps students attain knowledge, competence or virtue, but educators are much more than that to our students. Educators are role models, friends, counselors, coaches and confidants. Educators change lives and now more than ever, we can all see how powerful an influence our educators have on our students. Through strong relationships with their students, educators can affect many elements of students' lives.

I would also like to recognize our team of school nurses at the Bellevue School District in honor of [National School Nurse Day](#) (May 6). As public health professionals, they are providing up-to-date, helpful, accurate information, education, and services to students and families, which has become even more essential during this time of uncertainty. Our nurses are answering health hotline calls and responding to messages from families across the district. Thank you to our nurses for the work they do every day.

Additionally, I would like to share some important news and resources:

- **Grading Frequently Asked Questions:** We have prepared a more in-depth explanation on fourth quarter grading for [elementary](#) and [middle school](#) students.
- **Essential Skills & Concepts:** Student proficiency in courses is not the same as what would be expected if our school buildings were open. As a result, our educators have targeted essential skills and concepts for each course that we believe students will need to advance for next year. [Learn more.](#)
- **Social-Emotional Wellness Forums:** The Family Engagement team, in cooperation with the district's counseling team and community mental health providers, is coordinating a series of social-emotional wellness forums. The forums will be on Wednesdays from 2:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. The forums will focus on school level and be offered in other languages, including: Elementary, May 13; Middle and High, May 20; Spanish, May 27; and Mandarin, June 3. Families will soon be sent their invitations.

Thank you again for joining us on this journey. Please know that we are on this path together and our commitment to all our students and families is strengthened each day.

In partnership,

Ivan Duran
Superintendent
Bellevue School District