



BRANDYWINE SCHOOL DISTRICT

1311 Brandywine Boulevard
Wilmington, DE 19809-2306

(302) 793-5000
www.brandywineschools.org

LINCOLN HOHLER
Interim Superintendent

RALPH ACKERMAN
President, Board of Education

JOHN SKROBOT, III
Vice President, Board of Education

March 12, 2020

Re: Important Information - Increased Restriction Notification

Dear BSD Families & Staff,

The Brandywine School District is continuously monitoring the COVID-19 situation. We have evaluated District events and activities based on our Communicable Disease Response Plan. In an abundance of caution and following Governor Carney's State of Emergency declaration, **BSD is implementing the following restrictions effective March 13, 2020 through April 9, 2020 to reduce potential exposure of COVID-19 to our staff, students and community.**

- All student field trips, regardless of location, are postponed.
- All scheduled guests for in-class presentations and student assemblies are postponed.
- All off-site professional development activities for staff, regardless of location, are canceled.
- All outside groups using BSD indoor facilities will be suspended. *Field usage will be permitted with no access to buildings.*
- All events open to the public in BSD schools are canceled. Examples include but are not limited to concerts, musicals, Young Brandywine Artists Exhibit, and/or other activities that increase the risk of community spread.
- All volunteer programs are suspended until further notice.

NOTE: DIAA sporting events will continue as planned with the potential of limited fan participation and will be assessed daily. School-sponsored after-school clubs and activities will continue. The District will allow the YMCA and Boys and Girls Club to operate their after-school programs; however, in the event of a BSD school or district closure, these programs will be canceled as appropriate.

We have received some inquiries regarding school attendance. If you are concerned about the safety of your child related to the coronavirus transmission, please consult a medical professional. If you choose to keep your child home from school, the absence will be excused only with a doctor's note, and any missed work will need to be made up.

Be assured that BSD will remain vigilant in our efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Here are the proactive steps we have taken and continue to take:

- BSD custodial staff members continue to clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces in classrooms, offices, restrooms, and hallways using hospital-grade disinfectant. Teachers and paraprofessionals are assisting by ensuring that desks and tabletops are clear of materials so those surfaces can be cleaned effectively and efficiently.

- The Transportation and School Nutrition Departments are adjusting cleaning routines to ensure that buses, kitchens, and cafeterias are being disinfected regularly with the same solution used by building custodians.
- The Facilities Department has modified buildings' HVAC controls so that six full fresh air exchanges occur every hour in every room.
- Staff continues to reinforce and model preventative practices such as proper handwashing technique and sneeze/cough etiquette.
- District Office is monitoring student and staff attendance data to look for patterns or red flags.
- To prepare for the possibility of an extended school closing, the BSD student portal has been loaded to the BSD website for access from home, and letters have gone home with all students with Schoology login instructions. Teachers that do not use Schoology regularly have received professional development to ensure that any online delivery of curriculum will be successful.

All of us can assist by exercising best practices to help prevent the spread of COVID-19: wash your hands often, using soap and water (for at least 20 seconds) or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands, avoid close contact with people who are sick, stay home when you are sick, cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash, or use the bend of your elbow, and clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

We will continue to communicate with our families and staff via email and will post updates on our website. Please stay tuned for more updates as we continue to monitor and reassess the situation daily. Thank you for your continued support in keeping our schools safe.

Sincerely,

Lincoln Hohler
Interim Superintendent