



BRANDYWINE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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LINCOLN HOHLER
Interim Superintendent

RALPH ACKERMAN
President, Board of Education

JOHN SKROBOT, III
Vice President, Board of Education

March 13, 2020

Dear Brandywine Parents & Staff:

After consulting with School Superintendents from across the state throughout the day, and following the closure of all public schools in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland, Governor John Carney has called for Delaware's public schools to close for a period of two weeks, effective immediately.*

Specifically, Governor Carney has asked that all 19 Delaware School Districts close from Monday, March 16, 2020 through Friday, March 27. (At this time, we expect schools and offices to reopen on Monday, March 30.)

Schools Boards are being asked to respond by officially changing their Spring Break dates in support of this action. In BSD, we were originally scheduled to be on break from April 10-17 and are well aware that this decision would create hardships for families, schools, employers and childcare providers. President Trump has declared a national state of emergency, and health experts from around the globe agree that extraordinary measures are needed to slow the progression of the disease.

We are acting quickly to provide as much time as possible for family planning. This is a fluid situation, and that means we may not be able to answer all your questions at this time.

- 1) Will we have to make up the days? It should be possible to recover several days originally set aside for snow. And, if the School Board agrees to change Spring Break dates, more time will be preserved for education – so less time would be needed to meet state regulations for instructional hours. We will seek guidance from the Delaware Department of Education regarding waiver options and would only add days to the end of the school year as a last resort.
- 2) Will graduation still take place at UD on May 31? This is a fluid situation. Currently, UD is closed to outside events. It is impossible to confirm when, or even what graduation will look like until later in the spring.
- 3) Will work be sent home while school is closed? The District will be publishing suggestions for educational learning opportunities. Please check the yellow box on the District website mid-week next week.
- 4) Is there a chance that we could be out longer than two weeks? There is always that possibility, but my hope is that this mandatory shutdown will help slow the spread of the disease and allow us to get back to business as soon as possible. Should schools be closed longer than two weeks, teachers are poised to provide additional learning opportunities.
- 5) What will happen with regard to the 3rd Marking Period? Will it be adjusted? We will make adjustments in the same manner we have done in the past, when snow days had a similar effect on the 3rd Marking Period.
- 6) Have there been any students, staff, or volunteers in our district who may have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus? At this time, the District is not aware of any such cases.

This decision was an exceedingly difficult one for the Governor to make. His goal, and ours, is to do whatever we can to prevent the spread of the virus and make sure we get back to business as usual as quickly as possible – while keeping our community healthy and safe.

We appreciate your continued patience and support.

Sincerely,

Lincoln Hohler
Interim Superintendent

*Subject to re-evaluation at the end of this period.