



## BRANDYWINE SCHOOL DISTRICT

1311 Brandywine Boulevard  
Wilmington, DE 19809-2306

(302) 793-5000  
[www.brandywineschools.org](http://www.brandywineschools.org)

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**LINCOLN HOHLER**  
*Interim Superintendent*

**RALPH ACKERMAN**  
*President, Board of Education*

**JOHN A. SKROBOT, III**  
*Vice President, Board of Education*

Good evening. Even though there is not a lot of new information to share, I want to keep the lines of communication open by sharing with you what I know at this time.

To date, we have been following guidance from the Department of Education regarding school closure and delivery of instruction. We expect to receive further direction from the Governor and DOE in the coming days. Meanwhile, our teachers are gearing up to provide additional learning opportunities.

To reinforce what students were learning before the closure, and to minimize learning loss, we uploaded voluntary, non-graded resources in the Students channel on our website. Written packets of these resources were created this week. Immediately after the Governor's order to close schools, we ordered pallets of books to supplement learning with expedited shipping. Our intention was to deliver the packets and the books to schools at the same time so they would be available to any student or family that wanted printed materials. However, we learned today that even though the books had arrived at the UPS warehouse in Delaware, and even though they were loaded onto a truck for delivery to BSD, UPS made the decision to suspend all deliveries to schools during the shutdown and is sending all materials back to the shippers. To say we are disappointed about this decision would be a gross understatement. We will get our written packets to all schools that are distributing free meals during the shut-down, and we are placing packets on the BSD buses that deliver meals to community hubs so they are available for families on Monday.

In addition, there is a link on the BSD website to additional online resources such as Dreambox, Khan Academy, and BSD school libraries, among others, to supplement the voluntary lessons for anyone who is interested. That link is also in the Students channel on the BSD website.

Meals continue to be served at all schools except Harlan and Darley Road and via school buses that deliver to four community hubs throughout the district. The hours of operation for Meals To Go is 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. We are also looking at expanding some of those bus routes to make additional stops to assist families during this time.

As a reminder, we have set up two email accounts that will be checked by multiple staff people each day and forwarded appropriately. Families should send questions to [parent.info@bsd.k12.de.us](mailto:parent.info@bsd.k12.de.us). Staff members with questions should email [staff.info@bsd.k12.de.us](mailto:staff.info@bsd.k12.de.us).

If there is anything we have learned through this situation, it is that things change rapidly. We have all seen and heard about other states that are imposing strict rules about activities and closures, and of course here in Delaware we are experiencing limited availability of many businesses and services. We don't know what lies ahead, but I pledge to you that BSD will continue to do what we can to support students and families during this challenging time.