Dear BSD Families,

It’s hard to believe, but Memorial Day is almost upon us and, with it, the unofficial start of summer. While summer this year may look markedly different than usual, some things are on as scheduled: the importance of family and loved ones, self-care, good health, and staying connected, even from afar. For educators, this time of year regularly also signals a bit of disengagement by students who are ready for the school year to come to a close. We see it every year, and we recognize that you may be seeing it now with your own children at home. Please be assured that it is a normal, cyclical part of the school year.

Our educators are experts at keeping students focused and on-task while they are in school. To help families and students succeed in the last few weeks of the 2019-2020 school year, I am going to ask some of our best educators for their tried-and-true tips for student engagement. Toward the end of next week, I will send you another email with some ideas you can try at home to keep your child involved in their schoolwork. Let’s work together for a strong finish to an unexpectedly different and difficult school year.

As you may know, the last day for seniors is May 29. Seniors will not be assigned any new work, allowing the few days after Memorial Day to serve as opportunities to submit any missing or incomplete assignments. Seniors will have until 3:00 pm on May 28 to submit assignments.

The last day for all other students is June 17. When we developed the revised calendars at the start of the school closure, we made sure to allot time for students to retrieve personal items and return borrowed equipment such as musical instruments and technology devices. We also wanted to acknowledge the likelihood that some students may need additional time to turn in work, given the constraints of remote learning. The last week that teachers will be posting new instruction is June 8 -12, with June 15 -17 reserved for turning in incomplete assignments or make-up work. Each school will also develop a schedule for students to safely return to school, within state guidelines, to pick up and/or return items as discussed above. You will hear more about this process directly from your building principal.

In the meantime, I want to extend my sincere wishes for a relaxing, enjoyable, safe Memorial Day. As always, all of us in BSD appreciate your patience and understanding as we have navigated this crisis together.

Please continue to be well and stay safe.

Sincerely,
Lincoln Hohler
Superintendent