



Burlington County Special Services School District
www.burlcoschools.org

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Potential**

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April 9, 2020

Dear BCSSSD Parents/Guardians:

As we enter the spring break tomorrow through next Friday, I wanted to provide you with some updates since my last communication with you a few weeks ago when we began engaging in remote learning. The COVID-19 virus continues to challenge all of us on a personal and local level. Just this week, Governor Murphy noted that he is extending the closure of schools for the near future and until further notice. Uppermost in our minds during these difficult times is the safety, security, and well-being of our students and staff. These challenging times call for extraordinary resolve and sacrifice. Some decisions such as the cancellation of respites, school events or competitions are not made lightly.

There is however a silver lining. Your child has been engaged in daily remote online or personalized education plans and we are pleased with the progress made. Parents and guardians have been tested and have become a valuable partner in the education process of students entrusted to the school districts. It is important that parents make sure that their child is completing educational assignments and to be in touch with teachers if assistance is needed. Some parents have noted how much they appreciate what educators do day in and day out. Yet, we are all in this together and together. Teachers, guidance counselors, Child Study Team members administrators, related services and nurses have been contacting you weekly to make sure that necessary support is there.

I am incredibly proud of the efforts made by our administrators, teachers, related services, support staff, custodians, buildings and grounds, technology, security, transportation, food services and central office staff for their respective roles to support the day to day operations to make things work seamlessly. We have not missed a beat and each remote day counts toward the educational mandated number of school days by the New Jersey Department of Education. We have also received certain emergency permissions that now allow us to engage in teletherapies and we are committed to offer compensatory services for those services we were not able to complete during the closure. Parents and guardians should pay attention to our communications to you for various permissions.

We are truly NJ Strong. We served more than 1600 meals between BCIT and BCSSSD families one day last week and we are committed to provide the meals throughout spring break and beyond until we return on Mondays and Thursdays. Social media posts have been capturing innovative and inspiring ways students and staff are learning and teaching. We understand that these are not typical school days and so does the New Jersey Department of Education. Guidance is being provided to us regarding graduation requirements,

Westampton Campus
20 Pioneer Boulevard
Westampton, NJ 08060
(609) 261-5600, ext. 2218

Alternative School
1020 Briggs Road
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054
(609) 261-5600, ext. 2501

Lumberton Campus
71 Ark Road
Lumberton, NJ 08048
(609) 261-5600, ext. 4430

Transition Campus
20 Pioneer Boulevard
Westampton, NJ 08060
(609) 261-5600, ext. 3100



related curricular and instructional waivers. We will be providing communications to you in the near future regarding updates some of which you have already received.

In a message to all staff today prior to entering into the spring break, I referred to singer and soloist Andra Day and Queen Elizabeth II hoping that both serve as a message of hope, unity and strength. Despite the virus and its impact on our lives, we must be hopeful, take care of you and your families and be the very best you are because we need your very best. As [Andra Day sings, we will "Rise Up"](#) take a moment to listen and believe that soon we will be able to rebuild and cherish the gifts we were given including remote learning. May you also find that inner peace and strength in these challenging times to come out stronger and to know that together we will continue to build something special. I was struck by the Queen Mother, Elizabeth II's extraordinary speech the other day to address the impact of the Covid-19 virus on her nation as well as the world. Here are a few lines which I feel can best be applied to all of us as Americans:

Together we are tackling this disease, and I want to reassure you that if we remain united and resolute, then we will overcome it. I hope in the years to come everyone will be able to take pride in how they responded to this challenge, and those who come after us will say (of us that we) of this generation were as strong as any, that the attributes of self-discipline, of quiet, good-humored resolve, and of fellow feeling still characterize this country. The pride in who we are is not a part of our past, it defines our present and our future.

I thank all of you personally for your cooperation and collaboration during these extraordinary times. I thank you for being so helpful to your children to create spaces where they can engage in the learning process as well as being there as a helping hand. I am confident that we will continue to address student achievement while navigating an entirely remote learning environment in these extraordinary times. You have proven that as a valuable partner to your child's educational development, there is nothing we cannot do together. I encourage you to visit our [website](#) for ongoing updates. May you enjoy the family time without school interruptions during this break.

Gratefully yours,

Dr. Christopher Nagy
Superintendent of Schools

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