



BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

P.O. Box 450 • 129 Church Street
BRISTOL, CT 06011-0450
860-584-7000 • Fax (860) 584-7611

March 18, 2020

Good Evening Bristol Public Schools Families:

As you may have read in the news or seen on the television, the recent guidance from the CDC suggests that there may be long term cancellations of classes. As such, and in alignment with guidance from the Connecticut State Department of Education, Bristol Public Schools will shift to *distance learning* beginning Monday, March 30, 2020. That means we will begin to count all school days as of March 30, 2020. My team, our school administrators, teachers, secretaries, and technology coordinators are working to ensure we have a dynamic and robust learning experience for your child...a.k.a our scholars!

As of Monday, March 30, 2020, your child will have access to distance learning materials. The format will be the *same* as the past 11 days, as our families have successfully been able to access the materials from the website and are becoming familiar with this remote learning process. You will be able to access our **new materials** through our website and via links we will send out to you on **Friday, March 27, 2020**. All work will be assessed through a variety of ways in communication with your child's teacher. These learning days will count as days in session. On Monday, April 13th, the third learning plan will be launched through the use of google classroom. We will communicate more on this in a later email. We know this is a tremendous burden and a change for all of us. We will communicate with you throughout this rollout and create helpdesks to support you and your family.

What do I need to know now?

For now, and in preparation for this next phase in learning, we will need to assist families that do not have access to a device or internet. We have prepared devices for families in need and ask that families bear with us and allow only those families without devices first availability. If your child has access to a device and internet availability via a phone, tablet, laptop, or gaming system (the system can get to the internet) **you will not** need a device for your child.

What if I need a device/chromebook?

The distribution process is as follows:

- Report to your child's school between 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Monday, March 23, 2020: BCHS, BEHS, BPA, Chippens Hill, Northeast, Greene-Hills, West Bristol, Edgewood, Hubbell, Ivy Drive, Mountain View, Southside, Stafford.
- All devices will be distributed one at a time at the entry of the door.
- Bring a valid picture ID for verification and a pen to sign the Chromebook loan agreement. A copy of the loan agreement has been attached to this email for you to view.

- **Only students enrolled in Bristol Public Schools, and attending one of our schools or programs will be allotted a device.**
- Only one device will be allotted per household, and only households that do not have a device will be given a device.
- While we are distributing devices, we will use safety measures to keep our families and staff safe and healthy.

What if I need internet access?

For those with limited internet access, Comcast has opened its Xfinity Wi-Fi to all. Xfinity Wi-Fi hotspots across the country will be available to anyone who needs them for free – including non-Xfinity internet subscribers. Consumers should select the “xfinitywifi” network name in the list of available hotspots and then launch a browser.

On March 30, 2020 you will hear from your child’s teachers via email. They have been incredibly anxious to get back to their daily connections with your child and will continue your child’s learning.

Here is how you can help:

1. Create a space or time that your child has a work station or access to a device and internet access.
2. Check-in with your child to see if they are able to access their work or are having any difficulties.
3. While we have developed a robust online platform, it certainly is not the same as being with your child’s teacher in the classroom. Therefore, for the time being, we will not be grading any assessments. Rather, we are hoping to maintain your child’s skills through practice, reinforcement, and feedback. Based on the grade level, new learning may be introduced as appropriate.
4. If your child is an English Language Learner, receives special education services, or has a 504 plan, you will receive additional guidance from their case manager, on March 27, 2020.

We are Bristol All Heart! We are Bristol Public Schools! We are all in this together. Take care of yourself. Take care of your families. Take care of our neighbors (follow social distancing).

In Partnership,



Catherine Carbone, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools