



BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
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May 22, 2020

Dear Bristol Public Schools Community,

On Monday, May 25, 2020, the Bristol Public Schools will be closed in observance of Memorial Day. As you and your family prepare for this long weekend let us collectively remember and honor those who gave the greatest sacrifice to protect our freedoms.

This week's letter contains information regarding: the CT Re-Opening, a CT State Department of Education (CSDE) parent feedback request, 8th grade promotion, a reminder about expanded video instruction for small group instruction, completing the family feedback survey; personal belongings pick up, a food distribution update and information regarding the upcoming MBIAMS Community Forum.

### **Connecticut Re-Opening**

On May 20, 2020, Governor Lamont announced Phase 1 of Re-Opening Connecticut with relaxed rules for some outdoor settings. Guidance on public gatherings remains as previously outlined; gatherings are limited to five people and specific parameters for summer school planning have been set. With such guidance, the Bristol Public Schools are actively planning for online summer learning, Extended School Year offerings, and our fall re-opening. As we consider the various scenarios for how our schools will look in the short and long term, we are exploring best practices globally and will be provided models and guidance from the Re-Opening Committee at the state level. Your continued partnership as we adjust to changing conditions is appreciated. As the State's response to the pandemic emergency continues to evolve, student health and safety will remain at the forefront of our decision making. We will continue to update the BPS community on our re-opening plans as we work through this process.

### **CSDE Seeking Feedback from Bristol Scholars and their families**

As this school year comes to an end, the CSDE would like to hear ideas from our students and families on how to improve distance learning should we need it again for some part of the next school year. The feedback gathered in the Thoughtexchange will be shared with the Commissioner of Education, the State Board of Education, and other leaders across the state as they consider decisions on re-opening.

Notes about the Thoughtexchange process:

1. It could take you as little as 5 - 10 minutes to participate.
2. You can complete questions at your own pace and come back to review your answers at any time.
3. There are three ways you can access the Thoughtexchange

## **CSDE Seeking Feedback from Bristol Scholars and their families – con't**

- Please click HERE <https://my.thoughtexchange.com/542224813> to participate.
- Go to [www.thoughtexchange.com](http://www.thoughtexchange.com) click on the “Join” button and enter the code 542-224-813
- Download the Thoughtexchange app (IOS) only, click on the “Join” button and enter the code 542-224-813

The Thoughtexchange keeps confidential who shared each thought and who assigned what ratings. You can rate as many thoughts as you would like and you can see all the thoughts sorted by the average star rating. We would encourage you to participate in this important conversation.

## **Grade 8 Promotion:**

The 8th grade promotion is a milestone that represents all of the hard work that contributed to students' readiness for high school. Our scholars and their families will be invited to celebrate this special accomplishment with a virtual promotion ceremony that will be available on each school's website on Wednesday, June 17, 2020. Administrators will send additional information including a digital invite that can be shared with family and friends as we get closer to the date. In addition to the virtual ceremony, 8th grade scholars and their families will be invited to attend a reverse parade at their schools. The dates and times for these events will be scheduled by individual schools and communicated to families.

## **Expanding Video Instruction for Small Group Instruction**

As we shared last week, we are enhancing our remote teaching and learning practices based on our students' needs and feedback from educators and families within our community. BPS teachers are currently engaged in professional learning on the utilization of video platforms for classroom instruction. The use of video platforms allows for live interaction while maintaining the safety and security of our students. To ensure students learn in a safe and positive learning environment, teachers will only use video instruction as a tool for small group instruction in response to students' demonstrated needs. The teacher will appear in a video to his or her students and students will use their audio (not video) features to interact with the teacher and other students. All teachers will continue to ensure that students have access to new learning at times when it is convenient for our families; new learning will continue asynchronously on Mondays and Wednesdays. Teachers who utilize a video platform will provide more specific information regarding the use of video instruction to parents or guardians of students who will engage in this type of small group instruction.

## **Feedback Appreciated**

Your feedback is needed! Last week, families received a survey to gather feedback on how things are going and how people are feeling. Thus far, we have received over 1,000 responses but would like to hear from as many BPS families and staff as possible. Your responses will inform additional supports and future planning for the district. If you have not submitted a survey please use this link to share your opinion: <https://forms.gle/dUL2Y7XTRFckzNDE6>. Once the data is analyzed, survey results will be shared back out with our BPS community.

## **Personal Belongings Pickup**

Beginning Tuesday, May 26, 2020, each school will communicate the schedule for returning students' personal items and the process to return school materials such as textbooks and library books.

While parents and students are on campus to retrieve items, families will be provided Scholastic Book Packets donated through the Connecticut Partnership to Bristol Public Schools. Each book bundle has three to four grade-level books, as well as supplemental “think sheets,” with questions and discussion material about the books, in English and Spanish. All social distancing and PPE requirements will be adhered to while we collect and return items.

## Food Services

Food distribution will be suspended on Monday, May 25th, in honor of Memorial Day. Food distribution will resume at all sites, on **Tuesday, May 26th** and **Friday, May 29th**, following the regular distribution schedule. Monday, Wednesday and Friday distribution will resume the following week on Monday, June 1st.

## Upcoming Meetings

### Memorial Boulevard Intradistrict Arts Magnet School (MBIAMS) Community Forum

The MBIAMS Building Committee will host a virtual community forum on Thursday, May 28th at 6 p.m. via the Zoom meeting platform. The program will feature excerpts of interviews from Memorial Boulevard Alumni, presentations of pathways and important dates, and a *"fit and finish"* display from QA+M Architects. Please submit questions prior to the meeting to [mbiams@bristolk12.org](mailto:mbiams@bristolk12.org). If you would like to join the community forum, please use the link and password below to enter the meeting. The link will be active approximately ten minutes before the 6:00 p.m. start time.

### Community Forum Meeting Link

<https://zoom.us/j/94684303748?pwd=YVpSSXpGWXZ0SWJWZVo5VnJ4TjUvQT09>

**Password:** 257713

My team and I hope you and your family have time to recharge over this extended weekend. We appreciate all our families' patience and flexibility during this time and applaud your efforts in keeping all students participating in remote instruction. Thank you for your continued support.

As always, We are Bristol Public Schools! We are Bristol All Heart! We are all in this together!

In partnership,



Catherine M. Carbone, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools