



BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
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May 15, 2020

Dear Bristol Public Schools Community,

The cooler temperatures of the past sixty-three days gave way to a gorgeous spring day yesterday, a hopeful sign that the warmer weather is here to stay. This week's update is lengthy and includes information regarding PowerSchool (viewing grades), Class of 2021 October SAT Day, expansion in the use of video applications for small group instruction, Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Program (P-EBT), Senior Night on the Boulevard, and returning personal belonging to students/families. We thank all of our parents and guardians who responded to our distance learning survey. We will continue to use this feedback to expand and enhance our practices.

Viewing Grades within the PowerSchool App

We have recently learned that our middle and high school students and families do not see assignments that have been given a grade of "R" when using the PowerSchool app to view their grades. "R" designates that a student can and should resubmit their assignment. When using the PowerSchool app on a cell phone or tablet, students and their families will not see any assignment that has been given the grade of "R." We have communicated with PowerSchool, and to date, they do not have a resolution. For students and families to see the most complete and accurate grade update, they should use the PowerSchool web address powerschool.bristol.k12.ct.us in an internet browser. Parents and guardians will continue to receive weekly updates about students' completion of assignments within Google Classroom.

Class of 2021 October SAT Day

The SAT is an important college entrance exam taken by juniors and seniors in our high schools. This year, the CT School Day SAT that scheduled to take place in March was canceled due to COVID-19. Due to this cancellation, our scholars in the Class of 2021 were not afforded the opportunity to take the SAT free of charge as planned. We are pleased to share that our scholars in the Class of 2021 will have the opportunity to take the SAT in October 2020 during the school day free of charge.

Expanding Video Instruction for Small Group Instruction

We continue to enhance 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 specific information regarding the use of video instruction to parents or guardians of students who will engage in this type of small group instruction

Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Program (P-EBT)

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has partnered with the Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) to implement the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Program (P-EBT). The P-EBT program complements other efforts to provide food to children during this difficult time but is not intended to replace any existing benefits or meal services, such as school meal distribution. The P-EBT Program provides households with an EBT debit card that contains the cash value of one school breakfast and one lunch for each day that school classes are canceled due to COVID-19 (\$5.70 per day per child).

Eligible households include those whose children are certified to receive free or reduced-price school meals and children who attend schools that offer free school meals to all students (such as Community Eligibility Provision or CEP schools). P-EBT Cards must be used only for food purchases at participating food retailers. Cards will be issued in three phases starting around late May, through the remainder of school closures and the benefits will be retroactive to March 17, 2020. Households will receive P-EBT Cards according to the following implementation plan:

Phase 1 - Around Late May: Students in households receiving benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF);

Phase 2 - Around Late May: Students in households directly certified for free school meals based on their enrollment in Medicaid (HUSKY A); and,

Phase 3 - Around Mid-June: Students not included in Phase 1 or Phase 2 but receiving free or reduced-price school meals when school is in session (e.g., students who are not participating in SNAP/TANF/HUSKY but are enrolled in a CEP school and receiving free school meals; students determined eligible for free or reduced-price school meals through traditional household income applications; and, students who are homeless or in foster care).

The primary purpose of this program is to provide all families who may be facing food insecurity with access to proper nutrition during COVID-19 school closures. Households whose students received free or reduced-price meals anytime during the school year should expect to receive a P-EBT Card in the mail.

Senior Night on the Boulevard

Plans to honor our Class of 2020 scholars are underway and will encompass a series of events during the last four weeks of school. One event has brought together our partners in the Bristol Police Department, Bristol Fire Department, Bristol Parks and Recreation, and our school staff to create Senior Night on the Boulevard. We have secured Monday, June 8, 2020, and Tuesday, June 9, 2020, for Senior Night on the Boulevard, detailed information will be shared with Senior families by Mr. Wininger, Mr. Higgins, and Mr. Covino.

Returning Personal Belongings

We are determining dates and times to return personal belongings to families and collect school-issued textbooks, uniforms, or library books. Each school principal will communicate the procedure and date during the last week of May. All social distancing and PPE requirements will be adhered to while we collect and return items.

Connecticut Re-opening

In the upcoming weeks, the State of Connecticut will begin to phase in various forms of re-opening. I urge you to remain vigilant in your handwashing, social distancing, and wearing face coverings when in public. Now, more than ever, it is important to remember that we are in this together. Preventing the spread of the virus, ensures we all remain safe and healthy. Continue to take care of yourself and your family, enjoy the beautiful weekend ahead (while continuing to social distance).

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