



BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
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May 1, 2020

Bristol Public Schools Parents and Guardians,

I cannot believe it is the first day of May, as much as I cannot believe we have been home for eight weeks...time is flying by! My team and I continue to hope that you and your family are healthy and feel connected to your school, district, and the greater Bristol commUNITY. Today we concluded our second week of the Phase III distance learning plan, and our staff and administration continue to respond to questions or concerns as we receive them. We thank you for your continued support and efforts to assist your scholar throughout this extended closure.

Since we have returned from spring recess there has been a tremendous amount of school spirit posted and shared throughout the district. These photos and videos have lifted spirits across our school communities. Thank you to all of our students, families, and staff members who have been so creative and have come together to support one another. Next week we celebrate National Teacher Appreciation Week, we are SO very appreciative and grateful for the efforts of our BPS teachers to make this abrupt interruption in your scholar's school experience a bit more tolerable. Never have our teachers been more appreciated and seen - even as they work with our students from a distance. If you participate on social media, please join the national movement to showcase BPS teachers. Share your thanks and appreciation by using the hashtags **#ThankATeacher!#WeareBristolPS!**

This week's update provides grading information for parents and guardians of middle grades and high school students, an FAQ regarding Google classroom email summaries, information for parents/guardians of graduating seniors, adult self-care reminders, a community resource, and meeting information.

### **Middle Grades and High School Grading**

You will receive an email and screencast from your child's middle grade or high school principal explaining the grading process for the remainder of the school year. A brief summary is included here:

#### **Best Practices**

Teachers will continue the best practices they currently employ to ensure that students are clear on the expectations for the assignment, have been provided the instruction necessary to do well, and have been given formative feedback about their progress before a grade is assigned for any assessment.

#### **Grading on assignments within the marking period**

Provided that students (1) show they are clear on the expectations for the assignment; (2) have participated in the instruction necessary to do well, including accommodations and modifications if required, and (3) have received formative feedback within instruction; students will receive grades for their assignments such as those given for similar assignments throughout the school year (numeric scale). If any of the conditions have not been met, students will receive an **R**.

**Quarter, trimester, and end of year grading will be explained in greater detail through individual school communications.**

## Google Classroom Guardian email FAQ

This week you received an invitation from our district's Google Administrator asking if you would like to receive updates regarding posted assignments in your scholar's courses/classes. These emails, known as guardian email summaries, include information about missing work, upcoming work, and class activities. Our district administrator account sent this invitation email to the primary guardian email address supplied in Powerschool. After you accept the invitation, you will begin receiving regular email summaries of your student's work. **You can only receive summaries for students using Google Classroom with a G Suite account. For details, see [Guardian email FAQ](#)**

### **I want guardian summaries sent to a different email address. Can I change the address?**

To manage email summary settings, you need a free Google Account. You don't need a Gmail address to create a Google Account.

To create one with your current email address, see [Create your Google Account](#).

If you have a Google Account, Go to <https://classroom.google.com/gc>, where you can see the students connected to your account and manage 2 settings:

- The frequency of your emails
- Your time zone

## Parents/Guardian of the Class of 2020 - BCHS, BEHS, and BPA

We have begun considering alternative high school graduation activities in the event we are unable to hold the traditional ceremony in June. We sent out a survey to the senior class and expect that our entire community will find creative ways to show their support, and help members of the Class of 2020 celebrate their achievements. We are arranging a virtual parent information session regarding end-of-year activities to celebrate our Seniors. Messaging regarding specifics will be sent by their respective school communities.

## Adult Self-Care Steps

During a period when stress and change in our daily lives are running high, the following strategies adapted from the Harvard Health Blog (<https://health.harvard.edu/blog>) may provide some comfort or relief. I know I struggle to balance the many aspects of work, home, family, friends, charity, and exercise.

### ***Acknowledge the turbulence***

Grant yourself the time and space to acknowledge your loss. This can help you stay grounded with the current state of life.

### ***Fuel your body with healthy food***

We have increased physical and mental stress, and healthy eating is vital in supporting our immune system to stave off illness and recuperate faster if we fall ill."

### ***Move your body***

"We are all spending less time commuting, driving our kids around, and doing errands," says Dr. Thorndike. "Use the extra time to take a walk or do some exercise at home.

### ***Prioritize sleep***

Our bodies need sufficient sleep to function.

### ***Find ways to connect socially and remotely***

Keeping in contact with others not only helps to lift our spirits but may lift your family and friends' outlook as well. A kind word shared, a laugh, or sharing feelings can brighten your spirits.

### ***Find ways to ease stress***

Eating healthy, being active, and getting enough sleep help us to mitigate the effects of stress and anxiety on our bodies. One more technique is positive thinking. Remembering and acknowledging the good in our lives is a powerfully positive action.

### **Phase III Parent feedback:**

Please use this link to provide feedback on our Phase III distance learning plan, your feedback will be used to enhance our practices. [Phase III Parent Survey](#)

### **Car Parade**

PreK-5 schools are arranging *reverse parades* and will be messaging specifics to their respective school communities.

### **“Talk It Out Line”**

The “Talk It Out Line” which is a Department of Children and Families’ initiative created to provide support and services to help parents and caretakers with the stress and increased needs resulting from caring for their children during the COVID-19 crisis. Parents and caregivers are invited to call 833-258-5011 and/or visit [www.talkitoutct.com](http://www.talkitoutct.com) to speak with trained professionals (in both English and Spanish) who will listen and discuss their concerns and, if additional help is needed, refer them to responsive services. The “Talk It Out Line” is available Monday-Friday from 8 am to 8 pm; and on weekends from 1 pm to 8 pm.

### **Board of Education Meetings**

- Board of Education Meeting – Wednesday, May 6, 2020 - 7:00 p.m. - Virtual meeting using Cisco Webex meeting platform and CABE emeeting platform.

As always, we continue to send you and your family warm thoughts and anxiously await a time when we can celebrate together as a community. Until then, we will continue to expand and increase the ways we engage with you and your scholar.

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