



BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
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April 3, 2020

Hello Bristol Public Schools Families and Guardians,

As we finish the first week in our Phase II Continuous Learning Plan, I wanted to update our BPS community on a variety of topics ranging from information related to our virtual learning environment to updates on grade reporting and our efforts to support our community.

This past week asked for a greater demand on families and students as we navigated through our transition to distance learning. We appreciate all of our families, students, and staff that reached out to us to share concerns, questions, or suggestions to help us improve in our new digital format. As you know, we too would prefer our school lives return to normal and be in each other's company. We know that for some families, engaging your children in this style of education is especially difficult for a variety of reasons, and we are grateful and appreciative for your partnership as we try to find solutions to meet every student's needs, as much as possible. We are working to provide individualized continued learning opportunities as closely aligned with students' individualized education plans to the greatest extent possible. Additionally, we continue to adjust our special education procedures in accordance with federal and state guidance as we receive it. Please continue to reach out to your child's special education staff as needed for guidance related to individualized continued learning during this time.

A technical assistance guide has been designed for all users within our community related to distance learning. The user guide is posted on our website and covers the following topics for teachers and students:

[Students/Families](#)

[I am a student or a parent and cannot get online.](#)

[I need a Chromebook.](#)

[I am a student and I do not know how to submit my work./I do not know how to make a copy of a google document](#)

[I am a parent and need support with Google.](#)

[I cannot print documents from my Chromebook.](#)

[My Chromebook will not charge or how do I charge it](#)

[How can I scan my child's work to send it to the teacher?](#)

[How do I view PDF if my device won't let me?](#)

[The Chromebook I loaned from Bristol Public Schools is requiring a Google log-in. What do I do since my Pre-K through 2nd grader does not have their Google Username at this time?](#)

[I am having difficulty accessing documents using a tablet.](#)

Meal Distribution

For families utilizing the meal assistance program, please note the change in next week's meal distribution dates. Meals will be distributed on Monday, April 6th and Thursday, April 9th. **This change is only for next week.**

Trimester Reporting for Elementary and Middle Grades

As you may recall, the marking period for elementary and middle school ended on March 13th. Report cards are typically sent soon after the marking period closes, teachers and administrators are currently working to finalize report cards. No assignments from digital learning will be included within the report card for marking period 2. Students in our middle schools are reminded that they can view their grades from marking period 2 within PowerSchool. We will mail report cards on or about Friday, April 17, 2020.

Kudos to our Adult Education Program

Bristol Adult Education, Introduction to Manufacturing Program has become the first Adult Education program in the state to be certified as a Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program by the Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship Training. Our program will now provide successful graduates with 200 hours of pre-apprenticeship certified time, as well as additional funding opportunities for future programs.

Recognition for Exemplary Work

Science units of instruction developed for Phase II in grades 6-12 were recognized as an exemplary model of curriculum design and will be featured by JASON Learning. Jason Learning is a nationally recognized science platform that specializes in curriculum and learning experiences in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) for K-12 students, and high-quality professional development for teachers.

We would like to recognize the hard work and dedication of our special services staff as they have worked diligently to prepare individualized continued learning materials for our students with disabilities.

Online Registration process for Kindergarten families

Beginning Monday, April 20, 2020, BPS will launch an online registration process while we follow social distancing guidance. All new families to the district and our annual kindergarten registration will be accessible through the BPS website. We will communicate more on this process in an upcoming letter.

Be Counted!

Please participate in the 2020 Census. Thousands of Connecticut children were not counted in the 2010 Census. By submitting your census, you help to support our community in accessing funding for the next decade. That funding influences transportation in regards to highway planning and construction as well as grants for public transit systems. It also helps to determine how money is allocated for the Head Start program, educational grants that support teachers and special education.

BPS Happenings

- Our middle grades scholars showed their intellectual power during this year's state-wide History Day Competition. Congratulations to:

- **2nd Place** Historical Research Paper - Jonathan Casarola-NEMS-"The Remarkable Season of the Texas Western Miners"
 - **3rd Place** Historical Research Paper - Isaiah Monroe-Shaw - CHMS - Women's Suffrage
 - **2nd Place** Individual Exhibit - Eva Gammell - CHMS - "Alice Cogswell: The Girl Who Inspired the American School for the Deaf"
 - **3rd Place** Individual Performance - Caitlyn Carbone - GH - "Sputnik 1"
 - **3rd Place** - Individual Historical Research Paper - Peyton Hasler - NEMS- "Charlie Sifford: Changing the World of Golf" and
 - **3rd Place** - Group Website - Paige Ansah and Helena Wright - CHMS - "Nina Simone"
- The **Fund for Teachers** is a national organization that provides public school educators the funding and support necessary to engage in high-level professional growth experiences during the summer months. This year, over 200 teachers submitted applications. Of the 147 teachers were awarded the 2020 Fund for Teachers grants. This included five of our BPS teachers, due to COVID-19, fellowships will occur in the summer of 2021:
 - Janet Birsch Kenney - BEHS
 - Carolyn Kielma - BEHS
 - Ryan Fisher and Jessica Fisher - BCHS and EL Department
 - Sharon Vocke - NEMS
 - Our technology department researched and will begin printing masks utilizing our 3-D printers to provide much needed PPE to first responders and community health professionals.
 - We have collected gloves and other items to support the BBHD.
 - To date, our Food Service department has served over 35,000 meals.
 - Our second phase of Chromebook distribution increased our device lending to over 1,500 devices.
 - April vacation is scheduled from Friday, April 10, 2020, through Friday, April 17, 2020. School session (virtual) will resume on Monday, April 20, 2020.
 - The last day of the 2019-2020 school year is Thursday, June 18, 2020.

As we continue into the fourth week of remote learning, we encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher, principal, or Dr. Dietter and myself, if you have questions or concerns. We are committed to supporting you and your family throughout this uneasy time. Over the next few weeks, we will see the impact of COVID-19 on our community, our state, and our nation. Please take care, stay home, and stay safe.

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