



*BPS is committed to Character Education  
Honesty/Integrity ~ Respect/Kindness ~ Responsibility/Accountability ~ Positive Attitude*

*March 19, 2020*

*Dear BPS Community,*

*We know you have received a lot of communication from the District over the past week, including messages today sharing details about the online opportunities that launched today. As we remain focused on our communities and supporting one another during this unprecedented time, it is important to let the BPS community know that your BPS Board of Education fully supports the efforts and direction of the Superintendent and Central Leadership Team in response to this crisis. We wanted to reach out to our families tonight to share our thoughts and thanks amidst this ever-changing new environment.*

*I personally want to thank our BPS administrators and staff members who have been thoughtful in their approach, found ways to include all children and incorporate social-emotional elements to support our kids during this crisis. As a public school, we are required to meet certain guidance and regulation standards. We know that our families are closely watching what is happening in schools nearby and around the nation. We also know that given this global crisis, remaining flexible and understanding is key. Our community is connecting in virtual ways through familiar avenues like social media to share questions and concerns, and that connection can certainly be a blessing in these difficult times. I personally hope we can use the power of those networks in the coming days and weeks to support the work our educators are doing and lift up one another.*

*With all of the changes and directives our District is receiving from the state and federal levels, we continue to see a focus and commitment to all students from our BPS staff. I cannot emphasize enough how proud I am of those efforts. As your elected officials, I am glad we can confidently communicate to our public and hope you are as proud of our team as we are. We're living through an unprecedented situation, however, we have unwavering confidence that the administration will calmly, clearly and deftly navigate us through these uncharted waters. We appreciate the community's support, patience and understanding. Be assured that we'll do all we can to do what is right for our kids!*

*Sincerely,  
Kimberly Whitman  
President  
Birmingham Public Schools Board of Education*

