

A message from BIRMINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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

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*Friday, June 12, 2020*

Dear BPS Families,

Like many other schools across our nation, we have learned every day, week and month during the COVID-19 global pandemic as a Birmingham Public Schools learning community. As our children officially end their school year today, we celebrate with them, but we are also already focused on the fall. Three return to school committees are working to prepare for student learning, no matter the scenario with which we are faced for the first day of the 2020-21 school year.

Linked here is [an overview of our plans to address student learning this fall](#). BPS will follow our state's directive regarding the [opening of schools and the health and safety guidelines](#) to do so. Our plans must be flexible as we await more direction from our state, with actionable goals that allow us to pivot. And yet, all of this must be done with our guiding question at the center, "What is the best possible outcomes for all students within our district?"

All leaders within BPS seek a return of safe in-person learning this fall. We remain optimistic that as further medical data is available, some of the social distancing and safety protocols may afford us greater flexibility. In the absence of such data, we must continue to consider building capacity, classroom space, furniture design and six-feet of space between students.

While we must rely on field experts to guide us around these health matters that direct us in [safely opening our schools](#), we can confidently develop plans for student learning. Dedicated teams will continue their work over the summer to prepare for student learning in 2020-21. We thank those committees for working these past few weeks and we thank them in advance for their continued work this summer.

We want to end the school year with profound gratitude we have shared throughout this closure. In BPS, we strive to partner with our parents and guardians in the education of our students. While silver linings may seem few and far between at times, the growing partnerships and connections we've made from a distance have been extraordinary.

We simply cannot thank our staff, students and families enough for the grace, support and collaboration that we know will only grow in the coming year.

**Our commitment remains to communicate our plans and changes to our staff and families as soon as we are able and to act diligently and with care for the students we serve.**

Our sincere thanks and wishes for a wonderful summer break,  
***BPS Central Leadership Team***

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