

BPS families,

Following our work to finalize the mandated District shutdown yesterday and today, we wanted to provide an update for families on our next steps. First and foremost, our continued thanks to all of our staff, students, families and community members that have adjusted to sudden changes in structure and practice as we navigate this emergency. Chartwells provided over 800 meals to students in need yesterday and over 900 today. Our Technology Services Department has finished deploying devices to allow students and staff to access technology from home. Our District is running in a shutdown mode, with staff working remotely. Our community remains dedicated to caring for one another, and we're grateful for the good work being done in our neighborhoods.

This is an extraordinary situation, and a cornerstone of Birmingham Public Schools is our steadfast commitment to looking at the whole child along with academic growth and development of each child in our care. In such an unprecedented situation, we contemplated the gravity of our need to balance both the public education and public health of our community. To that end, our work to provide online enrichment opportunities will provide robust resources to parents and students with maximum flexibility for students, staff and families, as is called for in this unique and evolving environment.

Our plan is to provide supplemental opportunities for exploration and practice, reading and interaction with multiple applications online, depending on the subject matter and grade level. Our staff members have worked diligently to provide resources that will engage our students during this prolonged closure and further our students' education. All educators will also reach out to families and students with regularity to maintain a sense of community and normalcy for our kids during this crisis. Our teams invested an incredible amount of time and energy into the resources we are providing, and they are committed to communicating with students and families on a regular basis. We are also including free standardized test preparation and AP exam preparation resources.

Launch of Online Learning

Tomorrow morning, you will receive a message from your building principal describing what our online learning will look like and the steps you can take to prepare for the online offerings that will begin Thursday morning. The message from your principal will also include a warm-up learning activity for your child. For families and students eager for more, we've developed a [learning resource page with other ideas that you can explore](#).

Beginning **Thursday, March 19, meaningful enrichment opportunities will be available online** for students by grade-level and subject areas. Students will be encouraged to participate in activities/tasks which will not be assessed. This approach ensures equity and access for all learners.

Additionally, as we support the whole child, you can expect teachers to check-in with their students a few times a week. Expect them to reference aspects of the virtual opportunities to further learning

during the closure. Please do not hesitate to reach out to teachers if your child is having difficulty accessing the learning activities. Our staff will be flexible during this challenging time.

Accessing Materials

Virtual learning will occur via Google Classroom. If accessing Google Classroom via mobile phone, you can download the app or access it using the following link: <https://classroom.google.com>. [Step-by-step directions for signing-in to Google Classroom can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFjQK7xy7Xk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFjQK7xy7Xk).

High school students can expect an email from their principal providing the JOIN CODES for the subject-specific Google Classrooms that will be available on Thursday, March 19. K-8 students will be automatically added to their respective Google Classrooms. These Google Classrooms are accessible to students logged in to their bps-schools.com accounts. Parents will need to use their student's log in to view activities.

Continued Thanks

Again, our thanks to the community for your continued flexibility and patience as we make this immense switch in learning. We understand the drive toward excellence in our community, and our staff shares in that same goal. We believe that this can best be achieved with a flexible stance that acknowledges the limitations a complete shift to virtual learning would present, along with the significant impact that this public health crisis will have on the entire BPS learning community. Be assured that we are already developing plans when school resumes to provide opportunities for students to continue their learning beyond our normal schedule to accelerate progress.

COVID-19 and Additional Family Resources

Find our resources and information on COVID-19 at www.birmingham.k12.mi.us/covid19. [Know that we have added additional resources to support families, which can be found here.](#)

Stay well and continue to take care of one another. We'll stay connected in the coming days and weeks.

Sincerely,

Mark Dziatczak

**Superintendent
Birmingham Public Schools**