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Karen R. Royer
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April 5, 2020

COVID-19 Update to Students, Parents and the Community of Bethel-Tate Local School District

I wanted to reach out to our community and thank everyone for their outstanding patience, efforts and support as we all endure these challenging times together. Our staff have done a truly remarkable job rapidly adjusting from what was once their normal daily routines to a new unprecedented remote working and teaching environment. Today's new expectations of required social distances, restrictions and limitations have forced everyone to establish new standards and methods to educate, feed and care for our students.

As I stated last week, "We must be vigilant and responsible for our students, parents, community as well as ourselves". The District's administration is constantly in collaborations with our state and local leaders and peers. The educational leaders of the Southern Ohio region all desire to develop consistent sound decisions and directions for our serving educational communities.

Our Governor, Mike Dewine has extended the Stay-at-Home orders through May 1st. I understand that there are still many questions about how we will complete the school year and what is anticipated for the future. I hope the following helps to shed some informative light on the mentioned subject matters:

- When will we return to school?
 - At this point we are not certain as to whether or not students will be returning to school in May.
 - We are not in the position to speculate future conditions. We depend upon and follow the mandated orders and guidance of our state and local leaders.
- Is the State Report Card what my child receives from the District?
 - No. The State Report Card is not the same as the District Student Report Card given to each student.
 - State Report Card is based upon State Testing which has been cancelled for this year.
 - The State of Ohio will not issue the State Report Cards that they give to each School District.
 - Bethel-Tate Local School District will be issuing Student Midterm and 4th Quarter Student Report Cards to all students.
- Student Midterm Report Cards.
 - Our teachers will be providing a midterm interim report card to all students.
 - We hope to distribute these out via US Mail by April 24th.

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- 4th Quarter Student Reports Cards.
 - 4th Quarter Report Cards will be issued by Bethel-Tate Local School District to all students at the end of the School Year.
 - Our principals and I are working on a grading plan based upon the remote lessons plans.
- Senior Graduation Ceremony.
 - We do not know when the social gathering limits and restrictions will be lifted to allow large venue gatherings such as a high school graduation ceremony.
 - We are considering and seeking alternative dates in the summer for a potential graduation ceremony pending restrictions have been lifted for large venue gatherings.
- Prom
 - Prom is still on hold and no decisions will be made until we see what the governor says about social gatherings at the end of the month.

Remote Learning

We will continue to utilize and enhance our remote learning plan. The Bethel-Tate Local School District staff has done an excellent job working together to prepare alternative remote learning lessons for our students. Teachers have continued to be creative in developing methods that allow them to deliver instruction and support services to your students via the internet and phone. We have and will continue to provide printed learning packets and place them in the vestibules of our buildings. Vestibules will be sanitized daily with our Clorox360 Electrostatic disinfectant sprayer.

Food Service

Since school has been closed (with the exception of Spring Break last week), our food service department has been serving grab and go meal bags. Since our buildings have been closed, we have served over 2,500 free meals to families in our community.

Food service will continue with the distribution of "Grab and Go Meal Bags" on Mondays and Wednesdays at two different pickup times from 10:30 am – 11:30 am and from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm. Pick-up location is at the red building next to the tennis courts at Bethel-Tate Middle School. During these pick-up times the district hands out up to a week of breakfast and lunch meals per child 18 years or younger who resides in the Bethel-Tate School District.

Students/children do not need to be present at pick up. All that we ask for those receiving meals for others is to provide the student's / child's name and the name of the person picking up the meal.

Operations for April 6th through April 10th

The State of Ohio is still on stay-at-home orders as issued by Governor Mike DeWine. Critical employees are permitted to report to work if needed. We are strongly encouraging our staff to remain at and work from home.

Below is the plan of operation for Bethel-Tate Schools the week of April 6, 2020:

- All facilities are closed. The use of any of our facilities, including outdoor facilities for any group and all groups are prohibited. Per the Governor's order, no groups are permitted to be

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in public places and spaces. No practices or meetups of any school, community or family/friend groups are permitted on any of our grounds/buildings.

- Our Principals will report to their buildings at 9:00 a.m. each day. The buildings will be available for staff and those needing to pick up or drop off materials from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. We strongly encourage all staff to remain and work from home.
- We are requiring staff who do report to the buildings to take their temperature prior to their arrival at school and report their temperature to their principal or supervisor.
- Building vestibules will be open for student materials drop-off and pick-up from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. We ask that only one person be in the vestibule at a time (an exception would be if you are a parent or guardian with small children, they may be in the vestibule with you). Please wait outside of the building keeping your social distance until it is your turn to enter the vestibule. Vestibules will be sanitized daily with the Clorox360 Electrostatic disinfectant sprayer.
- The health safety rules of no more than 10 individuals allowed in the building and social distancing will be enforced.
- We are encouraging secretaries and clerical support staff to work from home.
- The custodial staff will be on a daily rotation with modified shortened shifts covering the buildings each day.
- All central office staff and administration are encouraged to work from home. The central office will have limited office hours. For those needing to come to the central office to meet with administration and or staff, please call ahead to schedule a time. The building capacity of 10 persons and social distancing requirements will be enforced.

Our administration will continue to stay in constant communication with the state, regional, and local leaders regarding the COVID-19 crisis. I am very proud and appreciative of how our staff and community has made the best of this crisis situation. Everyone's efforts and creativity in developing and transitioning to alternative remote lessons have been truly amazing. Our Instructors, support staff, administration, board, and the community have really come together during this critical time.

May everyone stay safe and be well.

Sincerely,

**Melissa Kircher
Superintendent**

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