



Benton Area School District

600 Green Acres Road
Benton, PA 17814
570.925.6651

James M. Geffken – Superintendent

March 31, 2020

Erica Covington
Business Manager

BASD parents and guardians,

Jillann Shupp
Curriculum Director/
Elementary Principal

The purpose of this letter is to provide updates related to the Governor's closure of schools. The Benton Area school District believes in brick and mortar education. We believe that there is no real substitute for in person teacher led instruction. However, during these trying times we need to utilize all our resources to keep our students involved in learning and socially engaged.

Jennifer Allen
Middle/Senior High
School Principal

Therefore, in accordance with PDE's guidance, we are beginning our 'Continuity of Education Plan' on Tuesday March 31st. We have collaborated with our teachers to develop and provide opportunities for our students. We are transitioning to an outreach approach geared toward enrichment and review. We realize this transition will be imperfect, so our teachers and guidance counselors are ready to work with our students and families to make the best of the situation at hand.

Lindsay Rado
Director of Special
Education

This is a relatively new learning format for all, so it is our intent to keep it simple as we provide learning resources. We have asked all teachers to make it a priority to establish communication and provide learning tools for all of our students. We hope teachers find creative ways to maintain personal connections with students during this period of social distancing. Additionally, we want teachers to find out what methods will work best for you. Please let us know if for some reason you do not hear from your child's teacher.

James Hartkorn
Director of
Buildings & Grounds

We are working to create flexible framework to meet the various needs of our students and families. As we progress through this implementation, please communicate with your child's teachers any obstacles you may encounter so we can work together to develop solutions that will work for all. Given the circumstances, we are working as quickly as possible to put processes in place to respond to the needs of our individual families. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

Brady Hess
Technology Director

Overall, we are looking to engage students in relevant, real world activities within the context of their homes. Teachers will continue to use enrichment and review opportunities to differentiate activities for students and families. Please fill out the internet connectivity survey posted on our website to help us make sure we can reach all students with appropriate materials.

Important notices:

- **School Calendar** – Regardless of whether the state reopens school, our school calendar will not be modified at this point.
- **Third Marking Period** – The third marking period will be closed out. Students will receive a numerical grade for the third marking period. Students will not be graded on or penalized for any unfinished work. Grades will be based on work performed prior to our closure.



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- **Fourth Marking Period** – The fourth marking period will commence but at this point we **will not** be having any mandatory or graded assignments. We will reevaluate this process moving forward. Teachers will reach out to students and provide opportunities for learning and engagement.
- **District Websites** – Teachers will post information for each week through enrichment and review links on the district website under the Enrichment and Review Tab. Information for each week should also be shared with students and families through communication methods that have been established with each teacher. We will continually look for other ways to help streamline information for students and families.

Please understand that as new guidance is released and the situation continues to evolve, our plans may change in the future. We will continue to provide necessary updates as we move forward together.

We look forward to the time we can have all students back in our buildings. In the meantime, please take care of yourselves and your families. Stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

James Geffken
Superintendent
Benton Area School District