March 17, 2020

Hello BCS Family,

I’d like to start off by wishing everybody a Happy St. Patrick’s Day! I’m hoping you are staying safe and have had an opportunity to spend some quality family time together.

I wanted to provide a few updates along with several helpful links in regards to the mandatory shutdown due to the coronavirus:

1. **Michigan Department of Education**

Listed below is a link to the MDE website regarding Coronavirus Disease Communications. This provides links to all correspondence the MDE has had with the local school districts. We are still waiting for more guidance from MDE in regards to expectations for academic delivery during the shutdown period.

<https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-37818_53456---,00.html>

1. **Talking to your children about the Coronavirus Disease**

Next is a link to the CDC website about talking to children about the Coronavirus Disease. They provide general principles for talking to children along with factual information about the disease.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/talking-with-children.html>

1. **Free meals program**

We had a very successful first round for our free meals program; 103 students were provided 1288 meals for the next 7 days. We will be continuing this program every Monday from 10:00-12:00 until further notice. If you have not signed up and are interested in participating, please contact Amy Yates at 517-486-2148 ext. 310 or email [ayates@blissfieldschools.us](mailto:ayates@blissfieldschools.us). Just a reminder, you do not need to be a BCS student to participate, the only requirement is that you are a student under the age of 18. Meals are available as either a grab and go outside of the high school cafeteria or we will deliver them if transportation is an issue. I would also like to thank Amy and her staff along with the numerous volunteers for all of their hard work in making this program successful.

1. **Athletics**

Please see the note below from the Michigan High School Athletic Association:

The Michigan High School Athletic Association has directed all member schools to suspend activities in all sports for all seasons—effective Monday, March 16 through at least Sunday, April 5—to fall in line with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s order that all schools close for the next three weeks in order to deter the spread of COVID-19.

All athletic activities to be halted include practices, scrimmages and competition/games, as well as strength training, conditioning and any other organized sessions and activities in all MHSAA in-season and out-of-season sports.

1. **General Information**

All district buildings will be closed throughout the mandatory shutdown. The custodial staff and many volunteers have been working hard the last few days to clean/disinfect/sanitize every area in every building. The goal is to finish up cleaning by Wednesday, March 18, and shut everything down until further notice.

BCS will continue to provide updates as we receive them. Please continue to check the district website periodically for updates in regards to the coronavirus as well.

<https://www.blissfieldschools.us/>

The Lenawee County Health Department is also monitoring the situation and working closely with local and state partners.

<https://www.lenawee.mi.us/187/Health-Department>

I appreciate you reading over this information and working with us to continue to provide a safe environment for the students, staff, and our community.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at [sriley@blissfieldschools.us](mailto:sriley@blissfieldschools.us).

Scott Riley

Superintendent