Dear Students, Parents, and Families,

By the order of Alabama Governor Kay Ivey, the campuses of Bessemer City Schools will be closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year.  Although students will not return to their school building, Bessemer City Schools will implement a distance learning plan for all students beginning April 6, 2020.  Although our distance learning plan will begin the week of April 6, we will also take this time to work through any obstacles related to distance learning. Parents and families should communicate to teachers any difficulties in accessing learning opportunities and resources so that appropriate adjustments or accommodations can be made.

Our learning plan is designed to provide daily instruction to students either online or for pick up at one of our current feeding locations. Critical content standards have been prioritized for the duration of this school year in each class and course.  An important goal is finding the appropriate balance between the e-learning workload and necessary mastery for the next level of learning.

**Seniors**

* Seniors on track to graduate and in good standing as of the third nine-week reporting period will be considered “as meeting the graduation requirements” for the State of Alabama. That means, YOU ARE A GRADUATE OF BESSEMER CITY HIGH SCHOOL!
* Final course grades for seniors will be determined by averaging 1st, 2nd, and 3rd nine-weeks’ grades.
* Seniors who are not on track will be given the opportunity for credit recovery immediately, rather than waiting until summer. Laptops will be provided if needed for Seniors who need to complete credit recovery.
* Dual Enrollment Course Completion – Adhere to Lawson State Community College requirements and guidance to complete 2019-2020 school year.

Our yearly graduation ceremonies will be rescheduled later this summer. More information will be available once the dates have been confirmed.

**Students Grades K-11**

* Final course grades for students in grades K-11 will be determined by averaging 1st, 2nd, and 3rd nine-week grades **with 4th nine-week assignments grades (digital, packets, blended**, etc.) grade for End-of-Year Grade.
* Students in 9th -11th grade who previously failed a course will have an opportunity to recover the credit in online summer school.
* The weekly lesson plans provided for your child contain essential content and activities to help them prepare for the next grade level or course.

**Weekly lessons can be accessed in the following ways:**

1. Weekly lessons will be available online beginning Monday, April 6 at [www.acellus.com](http://www.acellus.com).
2. A paper copy of the instructional packets for students in grades K-1 will be available through our feeding sites beginning Thursday, April 9, 12:00 p.m. -2:00 p.m. at the following locations: Abrams Elementary, Charles F. Hard Elementary, Jonesboro Elementary, and Westhills Elementary.
3. Lessons will also be available at your local school each week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m., beginning Thursday, April 9 until Wednesday, May 20.

We are in the process of setting up a support hotline to troubleshoot and answer questions related to, but not limited to, logging in, difficulty maintaining online connection, screen freezing, other basic end user functioning, etc. The number for the technology support hotline will be placed on the district’s website. Schools will begin collecting laptops the week of May 20.

We appreciate all of our families and look forward to continued communication with our students. Seniors in good academic standing, we are so proud of you and look forward to planning a graduation ceremony for you in the very near (summer) future. **CONGRATULATIONS SENIORS** in good academic standing as of the end of the 3rd-nine week grading period, **YOU ARE A GRADUATE OF BESSEMER CITY HIGH SCHOOL!!!**

Educationally Yours,

Autumm M. Jeter, Ed.D.

Superintendent