

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this message finds you and your family well. Once again, I thank you for your patience and flexibility during these uncertain times. We are all anxious to return to our normal routines and help our children transition back to school and their activities. While we are not ready to return to normal, we are excited and prepared to engage our students in educational programming.

### **School Closure Extended**

The Superintendents of Beaver County have decided to close school through April 13, 2020. This is a closure of our physical locations but we are prepared to begin education through distance learning on Monday, March 30, 2020.

### **Staff Contact**

The staff of the New Brighton Area School District miss your children and wish we were all together within our buildings. The staff has been contacting families via email and telephone calls. Please monitor your email for messages from teachers and school personnel. Additionally, because our teachers will be calling from outside of the District, their number may be unlisted or blocked by your caller ID. In the coming weeks, we'd ask you to answer unknown calls as they could be school staff attempting to reach you.

### **Student Email**

Our students in the Middle School and High School regularly use their Google email accounts while in school and to communicate with teachers. Please have your child(ren) check their Google email. They will soon begin receiving messages from their teachers with information and assignments. We encourage you to monitor your child's email with him/her daily so you are also aware of the information and assignments.

### **Educational Resources**

As we transition to distance learning our staff has been working diligently this week to refine our Continuity of Education Plan (CEP). We will be utilizing a variety of resources to engage our students in learning and we encourage our families to ask questions and seek guidance as we enter this new realm. We will be posting sample schedules on our website under the section "Home Education." We hope these schedules will help you devise a plan that will work for your family and support the many activities that are now occurring within your home. This is new for all of us and we will start the process slowly so our students and teachers can learn together and engage in productive ways. We will utilize email, telephone, Google, and Zoom Video Calls to interact and support our students in all aspects of their learning. Our teachers and support staff will be in communication with our students and families when we begin on March 30, 2020 so that we can work together and begin implementing support for our students. Families are asked to contact a teacher at any time if your child needs additional support or there is an educational need with which we can assist. We will be providing Special Education and Related Services (i.e. speech) during this time. Families will be contacted by their child's Special Education teacher or Related Service Provider, and likewise we ask families to let us know if there is ever a need with their child.

### **Calendar Revisions**

We continue to work closely with the Governor's Office and the Department of Education. It is hard to predict how this pandemic will impact the remainder of the school year. We will consider all options as we move forward and will adjust accordingly. We have not made any firm decisions for our calendar past the current closure of April 13, 2020.

### **Resources**

The onset of Covid-19 has taken its toll on all of us. Along with the educational resources that are presently on our website under the Maintenance of Skills page, we will also be posting social and emotional resources and educational topics on the Home Education page. We hope these resources will help you talk with your children about Covid-19 and address any of their concerns regarding the virus and how our daily lives have been impacted.

The New Brighton Area School District is a strong and proud educational system. We are beginning a new chapter together and together we will succeed. We remain committed to our students and we thank you for your help and support as we begin distance education. We ask you to communicate with us early and often so we can help or provide what is needed for your child(ren). We will be working with those who do not have digital access and we will support all of our students in their learning and growth. Distance is but a measurement, and it will not stand as a barrier to the immense care and compassion that we have for our kids. It will not stop the learning and growth that we know they are all capable of achieving.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Guarino, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

**New Brighton School District**  
**Acceptable Use Policy for Synchronous Learning & Video/Teleconferencing**

Through the closure of New Brighton schools, staff may find it beneficial to be able to communicate in “real” time instead of just email messages with your child for certain learning opportunities. The possibilities for this could include individual support on academics, therapy sessions, concert sessions, classroom lectures, etc. However, we want to ensure that students who participate are aware of our Acceptable Use Policy for Synchronous Learning. Should you not give permission for your child to participate in any Synchronous Learning that is offered, please contact the teachers.

Some sessions may include only the teacher on video and the students participate via audio. However, for other sessions, the student may find the need to be on video as well. Neither the instructors nor the students are permitted to record any session.

**For sessions involving teacher video/audio and student video/audio:**

- Staff and students should create a professional virtual learning space including:
  - Awareness of background
  - Professionalism/respect when on camera
  - Awareness of computer screens/tabs that are open during any synchronous instructional session
- We request parents or an adult to be home during all video sessions
- All synchronous sessions will focus on school related matters
- All school rules apply during synchronous sessions
  - This would include but not limited to:
    - Appropriate dress
    - Appropriate language
    - Refrain from eating/drinking
  - Instructors and students who do not adhere to this Acceptable Use Policy, as well as any other applicable school rule, policy, or procedure will be subject to discipline.
- When utilizing Zoom or other sources for video conference, instructors should
  - Inform students that “students and parents/guardians should work together to set up access to the video/teleconference
  - Create a unique meeting for each time they meet with student(s) and only share that meeting ID with individuals who are intended to and invited to participate
  - Only the instructor should have access over the screen, students should not be allowed to have control over the screen or “share” their screen.

If the parent/guardian has any concerns over their child’s use of video/teleconference, please contact the teacher or building principal to discuss further.