

News and Notes

April 22, 2020

Dear SBRSD Families,

My hope is that you are all continuing to stay safe and well.

At noon today, Governor Baker made the announcement that schools will remain closed for the rest of this academic year. As much as we miss our students and seeing each other on a daily basis, this decision was based on the fact that there was not enough information and guidance available on how best to reopen schools safely. Schools are challenged with balancing student safety and meeting appropriate social distancing needs with using classrooms built for a certain number of children at a time. There are many other important logistical decisions that need to be considered before we can be ready to provide a safe and healthy environment where students and staff are able to continue their teaching and learning. The good news is that the modeling done on the effects of the pandemic from six weeks ago has been dramatically adjusted downward as a result of the mitigation efforts put in place, so let's keep doing what we have been doing, as the best gift we can give each other is to stay safe and stay at home.

There has been some wonderful momentum with our Remote Learning Plan, and the feedback from students and families has been very positive. We greatly value your expressions of gratitude, excitement, and appreciation for the tremendous connections between our students and their teachers. Many took the time to acknowledge the significance and the depths of these relationships and the importance of continuing to nurture them. As teachers, we know that our students bring so much joy and richness to our lives, and we are missing them all so much!

Please see some other things from today's conferences that I want to share ~

- September 14, 2020 will be a holiday next year and will be the rescheduled date for the Boston Marathon. This will not replace Patriot's Day on the calendar for next year.
- The Commissioner will be releasing an update to the state's Remote Learning Resources Document by the end of the week. There will be guidance on new expectations and information discussing which Power Standards will need to be taught at each grade level over the remainder of the school year. We have been advised to continue to implement our individual Remote Learning Plans that are tailored to our District, and to incorporate the new guidance from the state.
- The importance of the Census Data was highlighted as the information collected directly ties to school funding, so please use this time to complete it and encourage others to do so!
- Additional guidance will be coming from the state to address how to re-open schools when the time comes.
- All non-emergency childcare programs are closed until June 29th.
- We will also be receiving information on FY21 budget projections as well as on how financing will work with the likelihood that town meetings will be postponed until after the next fiscal year gets underway.

There will be much more information coming in the next several weeks, and I will do my best to keep you up to date. My hope is that we continue to focus on highlighting the good things going on in our school community and that we continue to find ways to keep students and families engaged in learning. We are still holding strong in our commitment to honor our graduating seniors and celebrating

the culmination of their K-12 experience, and we will do our very best within the rules and our powers to honor our traditions and to provide senior experiences, most notably, graduation to the best of our ability – even if to do so the events happen in the summer months! Please continue to encourage Senior Shout Out videos or pictures that we can share on social media for the school community to see, with the goal of allowing the community to support and congratulate each one of our seniors in a special way! We had our first submission which was awesome, so let's keep them coming!

We are inspired by the way our community members are staying connected, shining a light on our collective strength. Starting this week, we are inviting any families to share what remote learning looks like at home by sending your pics to sbrsdathome@sbrsd.org. After we have collected a bunch, we will post them to our [Facebook page](#) or Instagram account. In order to help, we have provided a weekly theme below. Naturally, we are open to any pictures of remote learning you are willing to share! This week is **Week 1 : Community Thank You:** There are so many people who have been working tirelessly to keep us safe and healthy during this time, and this is an opportunity to send a message of thanks to those who have been there to help and support you. Send in a thank you picture in appreciation for these special people.

Please stay tuned for more information to be shared as it becomes available. As always, please feel free to reach out with questions or concerns.

Be Well,

Beth Regulbuto, Superintendent of Schools