



The Public Schools of Brookline
Town Hall
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Ben Lummis
Interim Superintendent

March 23, 2020

Dear PSB Families,

I hope you and yours are doing as well as you possibly can during this time of great uncertainty.

As we enter the second full week of closure, our schools and teachers will begin to provide regular learning opportunities for students and connect with them on a regular basis. We are following guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education that remote learning is not intended to replicate the work we normally do with students when school is in session. This means we are not introducing new curricula or grading assignments. Rather, our focus will be on providing opportunities that allow students to remain engaged in learning, continue to be connected to their teachers, and deepen their exposure to previously taught material.

In summary, this period of remote learning is not school. We expect students to engage in and benefit from these opportunities so that they are ready to return to school when we reopen our buildings.

As we move forward, please remember that there will be a wide range of how teachers, teams of teachers, and schools approach this challenging situation. Brookline values autonomy and individual creativity in its teachers and schools. Every day in our schools one will see variation, difference, and a wide variety of teaching approaches. The variety may be especially apparent while we are providing learning opportunities remotely during a global pandemic. Please refrain from comparing one school's work with another's or what one teacher is doing versus another.

I also ask families to understand that just like you, our educators, staff, and school leaders are navigating their own challenges during these unprecedented times. They are working from home, trying to support their own families and loved ones, and learning as they go. This is a very trying time, and we are all doing our level best for our students, our families, and our communities.

In closing, let me say that we appreciate your patience and support. I have gotten many emails letting me know how much parents and families support and appreciate our educators, staff and leaders and expressing confidence that our teachers will do the very best they can during tremendously difficult times. This type of outreach helps, so please keep sending them to our teachers and leaders.

Please be sure to review the updates below on the availability of Chromebooks for those who don't have a digital device at home, Special Education resources, and Grab & Go meals. Also, please continue to visit the Town's webpage for the latest COVID-19 updates [here](#).

With great care and concern,

Ben Lummis, Interim Superintendent

Chromebooks for Families who do NOT have an Internet Connected Device

We are distributing Chromebook computers only to families who do not have a device at home. Please **do not request a Chromebook** if you have at home a computer, laptop, or tablet that can connect to the internet. Our next distribution date will be Wednesday, March 25 at Baker, Pierce, Coolidge Corner School, and Brookline High. To request a Chromebook, families must fill out the [online PSB Request Form](#). After families submit the form they will receive a confirmation email with the date, time, and location of their pick up. If you do not get a confirmation email, your Chromebook is not ready to be picked up. Staff need to sanitize, catalogue, and prepare each device before distribution which takes time. Due to the overwhelming response, there has been a prioritization of Grades 2-8 students receiving Chromebooks first because they have student accounts set up and are familiar with our online platforms. Families of K and 1st grade students should also request Chromebooks if your family needs one.

Special Education Resources

The Special Education Department has compiled resources for families with students with special needs to help students remain engaged and connected to the school. In addition to the enrichment activities provided by the Office of Teaching and Learning, this link directs you to the list of resources supporting areas such as self-regulation, daily living skills, and social-emotional functioning. We will be regularly updating these resources throughout the school closure. You can access the resources through www.brookline.k12.ma.us/studentresources.

Free and Reduced Lunch and Breakfast Pick-up

During the temporary closure of the Public Schools of Brookline, students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals will be offered meals at no cost through the district's online student ordering system. Families can access grab-and-go prepared meals at one of four locations (Coolidge Corner School, Pierce School, Brookline High School, and Baker School) every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. Families can also place an order and request a curbside pick-up time on the [PSB Food Service website](#), or by texting/calling 617-821-1290 and leaving a detailed message that includes: Student Name, Student Pin #, Their Order, Location of Pick-up, Date of Pick-Up.