

Dear Brookline High School Parents, Guardians, and Caretakers,

We are attaching as a pdf an email we sent to all students via Aspen/X2 around 8:00 pm this evening. This communication will also be sent to students via Canvas. These are the same communication structures and protocols Hal Mason and I used last week. Our goal is to keep families aware of the messages we are sending to our most critical stakeholders: Brookline High School students.

As we mentioned to students, last Wednesday's announcement by Governor Baker that our period of school closure will be extended at least until Monday 5/4 is incredibly important. Critical also is the guidance that the state's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) provided to schools last Thursday 3/26.

I believe Superintendent Lummis will write tomorrow with plans and priorities at the district level. Please know that at BHS we are also engaged in a great deal of planning for this additional month-plus of school closure that could very well extend through the rest of the 2019-20 school year. As we work with school leaders and our dedicated faculty and staff, these pieces from the DESE guidance seem particularly important to keep in mind:

- The safety and well-being of students and staff is our top priority.
- This COVID-19 crisis disproportionately affects our most vulnerable students. We must consider how best to deliver on our BHS core value of educational equity.
- Schools should be supporting students to engage in learning for approximately half the length of a regular school day. This learning can take place via a combination of educator directed learning and student-directed learning.
- DESE emphasizes that schools focus on emphasizing skills already taught though there is language about continuing with new content, especially at the secondary level.
- We acknowledge that there is no way to remotely replace or re-create what happens in our public schools, remote learning must be understood broadly. This includes going well beyond reliance on technology and involves embracing creative approaches to learning developed by educators in conversation and collaboration with one another.
- We should work to establish parameters for remote learning that allow for flexibility for our educators, students, and families. This means not expecting all educators and students to be working during set hours and not expecting students to be covering all of the content that would usually be taught during this period.
- Suggested components of a remote learning schedule: opportunities to connect with educators multiple times a week; access to multiple hours per day of academic content directed by educators; physical activity; additional time for "enrichment," such as arts and electives.

Please know that these bullets constitute just *some* of the recommendations DESE provided schools. We are continuing to work with high school curriculum coordinators and teachers to develop plans for April 6 and beyond. In these uncharted waters, the staff of BHS has been dedicated to figuring out how we can best connect with, engage, and support the wonderful students of BHS during this time of disruption and distance.

We wish you and your loved ones continued health and safety.

Sincerely,
Anthony Meyer and Hal Mason

March 29, 2020