

BBMS - are you ready to go "online"?

April 6

Middle School Schedule Update to Parents

April 6, 2020

Dear BBMS Families,

Does it feel like Spring Break yet? At least the weather was nice today! It is hard to imagine how different things are in such a short amount of time. We hope that you and your family remain safe and healthy and that you've found positive ways to get through each day while practicing social distancing. We need to remind ourselves that it is worth it in the long-run to adhere to all of the guidelines that are being shared through the CDC, the Howard County Health Dept, our county leadership, and from our Superintendent. All of the advice you are receiving is to protect the health and well-being of everyone in our communities. Thank you for doing your part to help the impact of this pandemic be as brief as possible.

Today, teachers reached out through Canvas with messages for students about the upcoming virtual sessions that they will hold with students. The contents of those emails were very scripted to ensure that we are all sending and receiving the same message. We are excited to report that BBMS families did a great job in responding to the technology needs survey and we are down to about 10 families that we are contacting personally. Thank you for your prompt attention to those requests!

On April 20, 2020 we will begin our next phase of the distance learning model with middle school students and I would like to share important information to help your family prepare. All students will need access to a technology device for approximately two hours each day.

Our distance learning model will consist of two components:

1. **90 minutes to two hours of learning activities per course for students to complete independently, and**
2. **Weekly virtual class check-ins via Google Meet.**

Learning Activities

Beginning April 20, students will engage in learning activities that will take up to two hours each week per class to complete. Weekly assignments will be posted each Monday by 9:00 a.m.

and will be due on Friday by 10:00 a.m.

Virtual Class Check-ins

Regular class check-ins will follow the schedule below. Each class will have one meeting time. Your child's teacher will determine which of the two times will be the check-in time for the class period and communicate the schedule with families and students via Canvas. The time teachers select will remain constant throughout the school closure.

Monday, April 20

- Period 4/4A Google Meet Check-In: 1:00-1:45 p.m. **OR** 2:00-2:45 p.m.

Tuesday, April 21

- Period 1/1A Google Meet Check-in: 8:00-8:45 a.m. **OR** 9:00-9:45 a.m.
- Period 5/5A Google Meet Check-in: 1:00-1:45 p.m. **OR** 2:00-2:45 p.m.

Wednesday, April 22

- Period 2/2A Google Meet Check-in: 8:00-8:45 a.m. **OR** 9:00-9:45 a.m.
- Period 6/6A Google Meet Check-in: 1:00-1:45 p.m. **OR** 2:00-2:45 p.m.

Thursday, April 23

- Period 3/3A Google Meet Check-in: 8:00-8:45 a.m. **OR** 9:00-9:45 a.m.
- Period 7/7A Google Meet Check-in: 1:00-1:45 p.m. **OR** 2:00-2:45 p.m.

A-day/B-day classes will follow a weekly rotation. Assuming the state-mandated closure is extended beyond April 24:

- **April 20-24: A-day classes will be assigned work and have check-ins**
- **April 27-May 1: B-day classes will be assigned work and have check-ins**

The A/B schedule will continue to rotate each week for as long as we are engaged in distance learning.

On Tuesday, April 14, teachers will send a Canvas post that will include a short optional activity for students to complete to re-engage in learning. On Wednesday, April 15, teachers will post a short orientation video that will explain the weekly routine including the expectations for assignments, the dates and times for the weekly virtual class check-ins, and the norms for engaging in check-ins.

The distance learning model of teaching and learning is new for all of us. I appreciate your understanding as we adapt to this new way of engaging staff, students, and families. Please do not hesitate to email me with any questions. I am confident that the students of BBMS will rise to this challenge and engage in positive ways with their teachers and fellow students once the virtual sessions begin. It will definitely provide an opportunity for students to take ownership of their learning in new and exciting ways.

I look forward to hearing from you in the weeks to come!

Thank you,

**Drew Cockley
Principal**