

# BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Answering your Questions about the COVID-19 Closure (established March 25, 2020)

We know you have many questions about what's happening with COVID-19 and how it will impact your family. The Governor's announcement closing all K-12 schools in Michigan for the next three weeks likely stirred up another round of questions. While some of this information could change, we wanted to reach out to you and answer some of the questions we know you have.

Again, please know that some of the information here could change quickly. The best way to stay informed about how the COVID-19 closings are impacting families at Bridgman Public Schools is to:

- Regularly visit [www.bridgmanschools.com](http://www.bridgmanschools.com) for updates
- Follow us on Facebook and Twitter
- School Messenger Alerts from the district
- Update your contact information in PowerSchool and School Messenger by contacting the Administration Office at 269-465-5432
- Bridgman Public Schools has established a specific email address [info@bridgmanschools.com](mailto:info@bridgmanschools.com) to address any concerns or additional resources that your child or your family might have during the COVID-19 School Closure. Please reach out to us if you need additional support or assistance.

This information will be updated as often as needed based on the most current information available.

#### **WHAT ARE THE DATES FOR THE DISTRICT'S PERIOD OF CLOSURE?**

Monday, March 16, 2020 through Monday, April 13, 2020

#### **COULD THIS PERIOD OF CLOSURE BE EXTENDED?**

As of now, we are preparing to be back in school upon completion of this period of closure. That being said, it is possible that the closure will have to be extended based on the recommendations of local, state and federal agencies.

**HOW WILL PEOPLE BE INFORMED ABOUT A POSSIBLE EXTENSION?**

Students, parents and staff members will be alerted by phone, e-mail, text and social media posts in the event of an extension to this closure.

**WILL THE INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS LOST TO THIS CLOSURE BE FORGIVEN OR MUST THEY BE MADE UP?**

Michigan's State School Aid Act stipulates certain day and hour requirements for student school attendance. In the past, the Legislature and/or Department of Education have adjusted legislative requirements or granted waivers that provide flexibility. At the present time, we have not received information from the State of Michigan regarding whether or not there will be any flexibility to the student attendance day and hour requirements.

**WILL ALL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT BE CANCELLED OR POSTPONED DURING THIS CLOSURE?**

Yes. This includes all district-sponsored activities, including spring sports, as well as any activity/event held in our buildings by outside groups.

**WILL PARENTS BE ABLE TO CONTACT THEIR STUDENT'S TEACHER, SCHOOL COUNSELOR OR PRINCIPAL DURING THIS CLOSURE?**

Yes. All employees are required to check their email daily during this closure and are expected to respond in a timely manner. If you do not get a response in a timely manner, please contact your child's building principal.

**WILL THE DISTRICT CONTINUE TO PROVIDE MEALS FOR STUDENTS DURING THIS CLOSURE?**

Yes. The District will provide breakfast and lunch to all children 18 years old and under and students with special needs under 26 years old.

Beginning, Wednesday, March 25, 2020 meals will be distributed using drive thru-pick-up style at Bridgman High School located at 9964 Gast Road between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Each bag will contain breakfast and lunch. Wednesday's pick-up will include meals for Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Sunday's meals will include meals for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

**WHAT IF MY STUDENT WAS SCHEDULED TO HAVE AN IEP MEETING DURING THIS CLOSURE?**

IEP meetings will continue as planned, however they will be conducted virtually. Caseload managers will contact parents/guardians to make arrangements. It is anticipated that virtual meetings will be done through the Google suite.

### **WHAT IMPACT WILL THIS CLOSURE HAVE ON THE STATE ASSESSMENTS (PSAT, SAT, M-STEP, MI-Access, WIDA)?**

The Michigan Department of Education officially announced that they have received approval to waive our State assessments this spring. There is still a Michigan Legislative process to go through but we fully expect that there will be no state assessments this school year.

### **WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH END OF THE YEAR EVENTS FOR SENIORS?**

Plans for end-of-year activities for seniors will remain as scheduled. This could change, however, if the District were forced to extend the closure further into the spring.

### **WHAT ABOUT PROM?**

The same guidance, as above, applies.

### **WHAT ABOUT SHREK JR. THE MUSICAL PERFORMANCE?**

It is a district priority to do whatever we can to make sure our students have the opportunity to perform this year's musical. Even though the Governor has set a return date for schools, it is still a fluid situation. The district will set new performance dates once we have more information.

### **WHAT ABOUT AP EXAMS? HAS THE SCHEDULE CHANGED?**

College Board announced their decisions for this year's AP examinations is as follows:

- Traditional face-to-face exam administrations will NOT take place.
- Any student already registered for an exam can choose to cancel at no charge.
- The exam will be a 45 minute online exam done from home
  - There will be two different testing windows for students to choose from (Dates released April 4)
  - Students will only be tested on topics and skills that would have been covered by early March.
- Colleges will still accept this shortened exam for college credit.
- Beginning March 25 students and teachers can attend free live online AP review courses.
  - These will also be available on demand if students are unable to access during the live time.
- AP Classroom questions that were locked for "in classroom only" work will now be unlocked and available for teachers to push out to students.

Further information and a full explanation can be found at the link below.

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/about-ap/news-changes/coronavirus-update>

## **HOW WILL THE DISTRICT'S SCHOOL BUILDINGS BE PREPARED FOR A RETURN TO SCHOOL?**

The buildings will be deep cleaned in accordance with our health and safety guidelines.

## **HOW ARE WE ENSURING ALL STUDENTS ARE RECEIVING EQUITABLE SUPPORT AND INSTRUCTION?**

We have been working diligently to remove as many barriers to learning for our students as possible. Additionally, we are addressing connectivity issues for our students. We have hotspots ordered and will be communicating with families regarding these devices. If you know of someone who is still in need please direct them to the Central Office. Teachers are notified when we have knowledge that their students are having connectivity issues.

It is important that students communicate with their teachers or their building principal when they are having difficulty with remote learning content.

## **WHAT ABOUT SPRING BREAK?**

Bridgman Public Schools Spring Break remains as scheduled (April 3-10). As of now, our first day back at school will be Tuesday, April 14, 2020.

## **WILL MY STUDENT HAVE HOMEWORK TO COMPLETE DURING THE CLOSURE?**

Every student in the district has been provided with the ability to participate in remote learning. Credit for these assignments will be issued. As such, students are expected to complete ALL remote learning projects and activities. It is important to communicate with teachers, building principals, or the Central Office if your student is having issues completing the assigned lessons.

## **WHAT IF A TEST OR ASSIGNMENT WAS MISSED PRIOR TO SCHOOL CLOSING?**

Under the assumption that school will resume on April 14, 2020, please use the following guidance:

- Students that were absent last week (March 9 - 13) are responsible for contacting their teachers electronically to procure makeup work and communicate a timeline for completing all tasks. If you have any specific or unique questions surrounding make-up work after speaking to the teacher or record, please contact your building principal for clarification and guidance.
- When scheduled classes resume, students will be required to complete all missed assessments that were administered prior to March 13 within five school days. Until this occurs, please mark missing assessments as "Incomplete" in the gradebook.

## **WILL THE DISTRICT PROVIDE MEDICAL OR COUNSELING SUPPORT DURING THIS TIME?**

We encourage families to directly contact your family doctor, the emergency room, urgent care, or the Berrien County Health Department. We are working on a plan with our counseling team to provide ongoing counseling support to our students and families who rely upon these services during the school year. Click [here](#) to view the social and emotional resources that our school counseling department has put together.

There are great resources for managing anxiety and stress during this time, what to watch for in your children and resources for how to talk to them through the CDC [here](#).

## **WHAT DOES BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS DO IF THEY ARE INFORMED OF A POSSIBLE POSITIVE COVID-19 CASE?**

If Bridgman Public Schools is informed of a possible COVID-19 case, we will contact the Berrien County Health Department regarding next steps. If the positive COVID-19 case is a BPS student/parent/employee, the BCHD would give direction on appropriate next steps. It is more likely that the BCHD will be aware of cases before BPS. In that case, BCHD will notify us and share precautionary procedures.

## **HOW DOES THE CURRENT STATE MANDATED CLOSURE AFFECT OUR EMPLOYEES?**

Our employees will continue to be paid during the government mandated shutdown.

## **HOW DOES THE CURRENT “STAY HOME/STAY SAFE” EXECUTIVE ORDER AFFECT BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS?**

The district administrative office located at 9964 Gast Road will remain open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. so that key functions of the district can continue and to serve as a communication-hub for families. If the office is closed, there will be a phone number and email address on the door. Please leave a message.

## **IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?**

Yes! We've already heard from so many people who want to know how they can help out during this closing. One of the best things we can all do is be a great neighbor: find creative ways to offer a helping hand to your neighbors (without sharing germs).

These are extraordinary times, which require significant understanding and cooperation. We thank you for your trust and support of Bridgman Public Schools as we continue to work through the fine details and appropriate next steps. We will continue to update this FAQ document as we receive questions and send out answers that will be helpful during this time. This document will be posted on our website [www.bridgmanschools.com](http://www.bridgmanschools.com).