



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Berrien Springs Public Schools will be transitioning to 100% remote learning for all students in grades PreK-12 beginning Monday, November 30 through Friday, December 18. All students will be learning from home during this time. There may be some "in-person" learning opportunities made available by teacher or principal invitation. These will be limited opportunities and scheduled in advance by individual building or program staff.

The district is transitioning to remote learning primarily due to operational factors. The district continues to lack the ability to adequately staff classrooms on a daily basis. In addition, student absences have continued to increase over the recent days while an increasing number of parents have opted to keep their children home. These factors continually limit the district's ability to effectively offer "in-person" learning. The district plans to return to "in-person" learning on Monday, January 4. Should there be a change in the return to "in-person" learning date, communication will be sent to parents the week of December 28.

During this temporary suspension of "in-person" learning, all district buildings will remain open following their normal school day and/or business day schedule. Some school related activities may continue as scheduled. Building principals will provide specific information about these activities and the associated schedules. Below is a summary of the district's plan for providing ongoing services and supports.

Athletics & Extra-Curricular Activities

- All district related athletics K-12 are temporarily suspended through December 8 by order of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.
- The school district will honor any new state order allowing the resumption of athletic activity after December 8.
- School related activities will be allowed to continue between November 30 and January 3. Specific information will be communicated by individual building principals and program directors.
- All current safety protocols will continue to be followed.

Custodial Services

- Custodial Staff will do deep cleaning and disinfecting during the temporary suspension of "in-person" learning.

Food Service

- Free School Meals will be available for pick up on Tuesdays from 5-6 p.m. in front of the Berrien Springs High School. Included will be 5 breakfast and 5 lunches for each student. If you are interested in picking up these meals, please contact Pam Evans @ pevans@homeoftheshamrocks.org.

Special Education

- Some Special education services and "in-person" learning opportunities will be made available in individual buildings. These opportunities will be available on a limited basis and scheduled in advance.

Technology Support/Service

- Technology support and service will continue to be available during the normal school hours scheduled daily.

Transportation

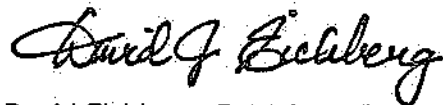
- District transportation will continue to be provided to students with IEP's who are attending face-to-face special education programs in Berrien County School Districts and at Berrien RESA programs.

While we understand this temporary suspension of "in-person" learning will be a hardship for some of our families, this decision was not taken lightly. Staff have received specific training for a transition to remote learning. A daily schedule for learning will be communicated to each student. Students will receive daily instruction from their teacher with opportunities for individual or small group learning activities and support. It is important that parents create an expectation with their children about the need to participate in learning each day during this period of remote learning. Students will be responsible for daily learning and grades will be maintained throughout the three weeks of remote learning.

We also understand that some families may lack in-home connectivity or broadband service. Should you have a lack of Internet service or experience difficulties with connectivity, please reach out to your building principal for assistance. The district is working on providing options for our families who are unserved or underserved relative to Internet service and connectivity.

Thank you for your understanding and support for the school district during this most challenging time. We appreciate your continued trust in us and support for the work of our staff and leaders. Please remain vigilant with good health habits and safety protocols that will allow our schools to return to "in-person" learning in a timely and safe manner.

Sincerely



David Eichberg, Superintendent