



BENTLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

COVID-19 Response Frequently Asked Questions

Updated 8:00 pm Friday, March 13, 2020

Will the parents or students be allowed in the buildings?

We will open the schools on Monday, March 16 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. for students to pick up their personal belongings if needed. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the administration office at 810.591.9120 before 1:00 p.m. Monday. If you are showing symptoms of sickness, please do not attempt to enter the school.

After Monday, we are anticipating that only essential staff will be allowed to enter the buildings. As our custodial staff work to disinfect each building, students, teachers, and staff members will be prohibited from entering without prior approval from the principal or superintendent.

Where can I find updated information about the status of the district?

Updates will be posted on our website Facebook page. We also use our School Messenger system to send emails and phone calls to all of our families. Please keep in mind that we are working hard to keep up with ever-changing information and guidance that is constantly being released.

Next week is the last week of the marking period. What will happen with my grades?

We are working on a plan to ensure that students are not penalized for this state-mandated shut down. We will evaluate our lessons and learning plans with consideration for the time away from school.

What about graduation? How will this affect seniors?

Currently, we plan on returning to school on Monday, April 6th, and continuing as normal. However, as we get closer to the end of the year, we will evaluate the best course of action for our students and community, as well as consider guidance from the State of Michigan. We are currently unsure if the shutdown will affect seniors' last day or the date of graduation. Rest assured, seniors who earn it will graduate this year, and we will ensure a graduation ceremony, though it could possibly look different this year.

When will the buildings be deep cleaned? What actions are being taken to assure this?

The Director of Maintenance and Operations is working on a plan to ensure that all buildings are deeply cleaned and sanitized during the shutdown period. We are following recommendations for cleaning according to our local and state health officials.

Will the school year be extended into the summer?

At this time, we do not have an answer to this question. We are waiting on a statement from the Michigan Department of Education as to how this shutdown will affect our schools and students, such as required school dates, state testing, and school funding.

Will food be available while the schools are closed?

We have been working to ensure that we can offer breakfast and lunch to our students during the next two weeks. Once a plan has been finalized, we will let everyone know where the distribution point(s) will be and when students can pick up their food. At this time, students up to the age of 18 (or age 26 for students with IEPs) will be able to receive food through this program.

Will the students still be required to take state mandated tests?

At this time, WIDA testing (for English learners) has been suspended, and a plan to resume testing once we return has not been communicated by the Michigan Department of Education. A memo was sent today stating that testing materials for upcoming tests (SAT, PSAT, MSTEP, etc.) are not being sent to schools at this time. We are awaiting further guidance on this topic.

Who do you contact if you believe you have been exposed to COVID-19 or are showing symptoms?

It is recommended that you follow the [CDC guidelines](#) on what to do if you are sick. These guidelines include:

- Stay home except to get medical care.
- Separate yourself from other people and animals in your home.
- Call ahead before visiting your doctor.
- Wear a facemask if you are sick.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes.
- Clean your hands often.
- Limit touching your face.
- Avoid sharing personal household items.
- Clean all “high-touch” surfaces everyday.
- Monitor your symptoms.

Are you going to offer online education to students? What do I do if I do not have internet access or a device to connect?

At this time, we do not plan on delivering lessons to students in an online format. We will work on a list of additional learning opportunities for parents and students during the shutdown, which we will share through our website and email.

Many of our staff members are eager to continue to provide learning opportunities to their students during the break. Please keep in mind that lessons and materials shared by teachers and/or staff members should be considered as suggestions ONLY and not as mandatory assignments. There will be no official grading through April 5.

We also recognize that not all students have access to digital devices and/or reliable internet. As stated earlier, we are working to ensure that students are not academically penalized in any way due to this shut down.

Students who are currently enrolled in online classes may continue to complete assignments if they wish.

What about scheduled events for the spring? There are several field trips (Chicago, Mackinac Island) and a theater production currently scheduled as well as athletic practices and events.

Every school-sponsored event has been suspended until at least April 5th. Events occurring after this time will be evaluated closer to the event.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association has directed all member schools to suspend activities in all sports for all seasons— effective Monday, March 16 through at least Sunday, April 5 – to fall in line with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s order that all schools close for the next three weeks in order to deter the spread of COVID-19.

All athletic activities to be halted include practices, scrimmages and competitions/games, as well as strength training, conditioning and any other organized sessions and activities in all MHSAA in-season and out-of-season sports.

Upon returning to school, will the district provide hand sanitizer dispensers for all staff and students?

The CDC recommends washing your hands with soap and warm water. Hand sanitizer has been in short supply and it is unknown what the availability of that will be when we return.