

March 12, 2020



BELLEVILLE

MENNONITE SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This notice is intended to inform families of Belleville Mennonite School's awareness of and preparedness for the growing COVID-19 (Coronavirus) concerns across Pennsylvania. As you are most likely well aware, this is a very serious issue impacting our world and community at large, as area schools and businesses are now taking measures to develop informed response plans should closings need to occur for any reason. For several weeks, I have been keeping up-to-date on a vast amount of developing notices, warnings, and recommendations from the CDC, World Health Organization, PA Department of Health, PA Department of Education, and our friends at the TIU.

While making every effort to interpret concerns realistically and with the peace that God is greater than all of this, I am also tasked with the administrative responsibility to look out for the safety and wellbeing of every student and staff member in BMS as well as the impact my decisions have on family and community safety. Considering how quickly this virus is spreading on a global scale and moving across the state, I need to weigh every option and ensure that our school is prepared for potential movement of COVID-19 into Central PA. I will continue to monitor the development of the virus and communicate updates accordingly, including calendar adjustments, general changes, approaches, and so forth.

Most schools and establishments are currently developing action plans, limiting/discontinuing unnecessary group gatherings, and in some cases, closing for a time. While we are not closing at this point in time, that could easily become a reality over the coming days/weeks, depending on how everything develops in our region. I cancelled our elementary speech meet scheduled for this week, and please be aware that we may be rescheduling our upcoming Open House (this is not decided yet). I remain in daily collaboration with colleagues and fellow administrators as we work together to make informed, precautionary decisions for our students and families.

Today, I met with all secondary students and staff to ensure COVID-19 awareness and preparedness - expressing my desire for us to be informed rather than fearful. Mr. Byler has done this at the elementary building as well. Additionally, I am working with our Director of Technology, Mr. Zook, to develop educational alternatives for our students and teachers should a closing occur in the near future. This would involve the potential use of distance learning tools such as Moodle, Zoom, YouTube, and RenWeb communication features (online classes, email, assignment uploads, etc.). This promising technology plan will be shared with families as needed. Updates and announcements will continue to go out via RenWeb and E-News/Blasts.

Thank you for your understanding, support, and concern as we navigate this challenging season.

Yours In Christ,

Nicholas J. Wilson

Superintendent

Secondary Principal

Belleville Mennonite School