

Dear BCS Community,

In these extraordinary times please know that your BCS educators have been on campus this morning planning all levels of contingency to make sure we continue to serve and educate our students while also prioritizing their health and safety. Below please read through the information carefully. There is a lot of information and please know that this is a very fluid situation and plans can, and likely will change. This is why we have been and will continue to work through contingencies for school resuming, extended school closures, and a hybrid where some students stay home and some return. The coming days will dictate where we end up on this continuum.

Please know that every day, seven days a week, I am participating in an afternoon call along with all school superintendents across the state with the director of the Texas Education Association and representatives from Health and Human Services, the Center for Disease Control, and local health authorities. These daily calls are to keep school leaders apprised of the information necessary to make decisions from an informed standpoint in regards to schools being open and potential school closures. There is no precedent for where we are at this point but please rest assured that there is a strong information flow from medical and health authorities to all school leaders in Texas.

Per all relevant information, Brentwood Christian School has extended Spring Break through Friday, March 20 for all students. There is nothing due and there will be no makeup of days. The following week, March 23-27, school will be open for students who are not participating in a voluntary or mandated quarantine. Your students' presence at school the week of March 23-27 is at your discretion. Please know that the students and faculty that participated in the trip to France are on a mandated 14-day quarantine. We are also recommending families who travelled via air or into areas where there are known cases of the virus to also register for the extended absence.

During the week of March 23-27, the workload for students on campus and those at home will be restricted to core subjects and will be measured based on the anticipated absentee rate. In other words, there will be work but it will be kept to a very manageable level. If you are concerned for your student and do not want to risk them being away from home for this full 14-day period, then please know that there is no punitive consequence for this decision. There will simply be core based work that is commiserate to the situation we are facing. It will be manageable.

If you plan to keep your student home for any or all of next week, March 23-27, please use this link [School Participation Planning Form](#) to register each student. This link is simply to get an account of all students who **WILL NOT BE ON CAMPUS** the week of **March 23-27**.

With the extended spring break as well as the absence/quarantine week then all of our students will have been apart for a minimum of 14 days with many being apart for a minimum of 21 days. Many schools that are extending their closures are using dates beyond the anticipated full resumption of classes of March 30 because they are just now entering their spring break days. This includes AISD which just announced classes closed through April 2. At this point, the BCS plan will accomplish exactly what AISD is trying to accomplish. We simply took our spring break earlier but our students will have been afforded a 14-21 day absence.

Now for more information.

The following events will be postponed and rescheduled:

- Partnership Dinner – Partnership Dinner has been rescheduled to Saturday, May 2. More information is to come on Partnership Dinner.
- High School District Athletic Games – at this point, district games will be postponed until the week of April 13.

The following events are cancelled:

- All athletic contests, competitions, and games through April 13.
- All field trips through April 13.
- All community service projects through April 13.
- All community events including the Talent Show, concerts, speaking series etc. through April 13.
- All Community Chapel through April 13.
- All weekly Chapels through April 13

(I realize there are many events after April 13 but these will be addressed as more information is made available. Many events will be postponed or cancelled in the coming days/weeks but that will happen as information is made available.)

The following will be changed beginning Monday, March 23:

- Drop Off – all students and parents will be asked to wait in their cars until the opening bell at 7:45am. Classes, and therefore tardies, will not begin until 8:15. This should provide time to exit vehicles, get into classes, and avoid congregating by doors.
- Chapels – there will be no combined chapels. Instead, devotionals will occur daily in classrooms and a school wide weekly devotional will occur utilizing the school's speaker system and streaming capabilities into each classroom.
- Lunches – lunchtimes will be staggered with some classes eating in their classrooms on certain days and those in the cafeteria will have staggered eating shifts and assigned seating to provide a minimum of 4-foot distance between all students at all times with the total number minimized to under 25 within each designated eating area. On the days when your student will be eating in their classroom, cafeteria meals will still be made available; they will be delivered to the classroom.
- Bell Schedule/Hallways
 - Elementary students will stay in their classroom for lessons and only one class at a time will be allowed to move between facilities and utilize the playgrounds for recess and the restrooms.
 - Middle school students will stay in their assigned classroom and the teachers will rotate to the students.
 - High school students will be dismissed in between classes on a staggered release.
- Class Focus/Priority – core class coverage will be the priority through April 13:
 - Elementary – PE, Music, Art, Computer, and Spanish will be offered less frequently
 - Middle School – PE, Choir, Drama, Art, Athletics, and all electives are subject to change
 - High School - PE, Choir, Drama, Art, Athletics, and all electives are subject to change
- Pick Up – students will be dismissed to pick up zones which will be supervised in order to maintain appropriate personal space distance among students. Parents are asked to wait in cars and not congregate while waiting for students. This is in effect through April 13.
- Extended Day – Extended Day will continue to be offered but will change in its application. Students will be assigned into multiple locations so that numbers are minimized and will not exceed 25 in a single location.
- Athletic Practices
 - 5th – 8th Grade – there will be no practices until April 13
 - High School – practices will resume March 30 but will be attended by students and coaches only. No spectators will be allowed.

The following will be made available later this week.

- A registration form will go out later this week for parents to come to the school to collect books and other essentials from lockers. Access will only be granted during your registered times.
- The entire BCS campus will be undergoing a deep clean and full sanitation this week and again next week. The cleaning/germicide sanitation will include all doors and handles, light switches, student desks, faucets, bathroom stall doors, toilets, toilet levers, breakroom equipment, lockers, water fountains, hallways, bathrooms, and classrooms. Aside from this deep cleaning, arrangements have been made for ongoing sanitation and sterilization to occur nightly.

Parents, this is a lot of information. We will continue to send information out to remind you of changes, inform you of additional changes, and keep you informed of likely directions. Please know that this situation is fluid and there is no precedent for course of action because we have not been here before. I have been in constant contact with the administration, the Board of Trustees, and the leadership of BOCC. There is a chance that much of what has been listed will change if mandates for closures are enacted. Please know that your administration and faculty is already preparing for that contingency. We are planning for the possibility of moving to an online platform if we are required to do so. Later this week you will be receiving a survey so that we will understand your home's online capacity.

These are extraordinary times. Please know that your school loves our students and these efforts are to keep them along with our community and faculty and staff safe. Please be in prayer for the school, our students, our community, and our decision makers. As more information is sent we will plan and shift plans accordingly. Once our plans are in place we will communicate those plans to you.

May God bless this community and may He bless His school.

Even today, it is a great day to be a Brentwood Christian Bear!

***Blessings,
Jay Burcham
President***