

Dear BCS Community,

Today Governor Abbott issued a mandate closing all schools in Texas through April 3. I did confirm through TPSA that this does include private schools. Therefore, the BCS campus will be closed until Monday, April 6. We will plan to resume classes on campus Monday, April 6. Please know that this date is subject to the authority of our health and governmental leaders and is subject to change.

On Monday, March 30 Brentwood Christian School will move to online education.

Beginning the week of March 30, classes will be offered in a virtual environment with both recorded and interactive sessions. Your faculty has been preparing for this move and will be offering quality classes as well as intellectually and academically stimulating exercises.

On Friday, March 20 you will receive enrichment recommendations for your BCS student(s). These enrichment lessons and activities are designed to engage students, familiarize them with online learning, and occupy their time and attention in academically infused activities. Each enrichment activity and lesson was recommended by the faculty of BCS. Please have your BCS student(s) begin completing these enrichment activities to keep them intellectually and academically engaged in preparation for school resuming online March 30.

Please let me recommend that you begin putting your student(s) on a learning and social schedule. From our youngest to our oldest, all students will need the format and structure to learn. When school resumes online it will provide a semblance of daily structure but there will be an onus on the student to participate virtually and to complete work in quarantined isolation. To help them prepare, please consider creating a daily schedule to include:

- A minimum of 30 minutes each morning and again each afternoon devoted to recommended online enrichment lessons.
- A minimum of 20 minutes each day dedicated to practicing music. If in band - practice the instrument, if in dance - then dance, if in choir - watch and participate with online choirs and sing.
- A minimum of 20 minutes of outside exercise. Please don't let your student turn into a couch potato!
- A minimum of 15 minutes socializing. Have your student call at least one other student each day. Give them the opportunity to socialize and visit and practice their social skills.
- A minimum of 15 minutes each day in family devotional and prayer. Keep our students close to and praising God.

This entire schedule is 130 minutes. If you will start this process of engaging academically, physically, socially, and spiritually your student(s) will be ready to begin online learning on Monday, March 30.

Whether online learning lasts one week or the remainder of the school year, online trainings for parents and students will begin the middle of next week. The platforms will be easily learned and there will be no additional charges for platform access. Information regarding live and recorded trainings will be made available early next week.

To recap:

- The BCS campus is closed through Friday, April 3.
- BCS will send enrichment programming to all students on Friday, March 20.
- Online training for online education will occur for students and parents towards the end of the week of March 23.
- BCS Online Education will begin on Monday, March 30.
- BCS campus will reopen for site based education on Monday, April 6 (Lord willing and subject to change).

Finally, many of our students have reached out to me and are rightfully worried about milestone events. Will we have graduation? Will we have a Junior/Senior Formal? What about banquets and concerts and elementary graduations? My commitment to each and every student at BCS is that we will have our milestone events. If it means we are having July 4 concerts with a mid-July graduation then that is what we will do. Every senior will be blessed by faculty and will walk across the stage and receive a diploma. Every student will celebrate the joys of our community and their achievements in showcases and concerts and banquets. We may have to get creative and we may need patience but it will happen. This crisis will end and when it does we will find ways to celebrate our academicians and athletes and artists and our graduating classes.

May God be with you and may He bless His school.

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

***Blessings,
Jay Burcham
President***