



BRONTE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



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To the Parents and Community of Bronte ISD:

Given the rapidly evolving situation with COVID-19, Bronte ISD will extend the suspension of normal district operations **indefinitely** while continuing to provide instruction an effort support our nation's need to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19. Our health officials report that cases are continuing to spread in the state, and an increase in confirmed cases in our county seems likely. Suspending operations for this length of time will allow us to determine, in coordination with local health officials, whether the virus is continuing to have community spread or whether it has been contained. We are coordinating with other school districts in the county and within Education Region Centers 15 and 14 and will use the upcoming weeks to make any decisions on whether there is an opportunity to resume operations as normal.

We understand the stress this will place on our community, and the administration and staff of BISD are working very hard and very quickly to develop organized and supported methods of providing instruction for your students. Your child's teacher will be communicating with you and/or your child to deliver updates and changes in instructional materials within the next few days. Please be mindful that these methods will be used to determine grades, credits for graduation, and grade placement.

As some of these changes will include the increased use of technology, we have communicated with West Central Wireless and we will provide hotspots free for your child to use at home if your household does not have access to wifi. These hotspots will limit access to Monday – Friday during the hours of 8:00am – 3:30pm. Please also, understand that we have limited supply of hotspots, so please only notify district personnel if you do not have any access to wifi in your house. Additional technology equipment will be made available for students in grades 2 -12 if they do not already have equipment, for example chromebooks. Please be patient with us as we understand that the issuance of this equipment will take time and we are determining the best methods of distributing this equipment at this time.

Also, we have begun to have conversations on solutions for graduation and other end of year activities, if, and when, we are faced with that decision. Again, please be patient with us as we are trying to take these changes in a methodical manner with the best interest and health of our community in mind.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has outlined the need for all communities to implement a social distancing protocol. We want to reiterate a request to our broader community to take the following reasonable precautions to prevent the spread of the illness:

- Don't shake hands.
- Wash your hands regularly.
- Limit movement within the community, especially avoiding crowded places and maintaining 3 to 6 ft of distance between people (at least an arm's length).

- If you are moving around in the community, don't congregate in large groups.
- For those who have traveled to areas with known COVID-19 cases – both inside and outside of the country – we ask that you self-quarantine and monitor for symptoms. Students who have traveled should plan to stay home for two weeks after arriving home.
- If you suspect you have [symptoms](#) of COVID-19, call your health care provider for medical advice.
- Keep your child at home if he/she feels ill, even if you think it is just a cold.
- Do not leave the house if you are ill, except to access medical care

This is a quickly changing situation, and we will continue to monitor information, will assess conditions throughout the week, and will provide the next updates via our website and teacher communications.

Thank you for your support and cooperation as we ensure that all members of the community in Bronte ISD stay safe and healthy.

Tim Siler, Superintendent
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