



Beaver River Central School serves as a center for education in dynamic partnership with students, staff, parents, and community to provide each student the opportunity to achieve maximum potential in all areas of life and learning now and in the future.

**Todd Green**  
Superintendent

**Kimberly Lyman-Wright**  
Elementary Principal

**Christine LaBare**  
Middle School Principal

**Daniel Rains**  
High School Principal

April 1, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians of BRCS,

I hope this letter finds each and every one as best as can be during the current COVID-19 situation. It seems that each day we are finding out new information and as we adjust to that new information more questions arise. This letter is to help answer some questions you may have:

### Spring Break

As you may have seen, the governor's executive order 202.11 has included an extension for school closures. This extension is until April 14<sup>th</sup> with schools opening April 15<sup>th</sup>. Districts will have the 180 day's waiver if they continue to provide:

- a. continuity of instruction,
- b. school lunch/breakfast program and
- c. provide childcare when needed to emergency and healthcare workers.

In addition, districts must use all of their snow days and vacation days. Therefore, we will not have a Spring Break.

### Continuity of Instruction

Over the past few weeks, teachers have provided resources via google classroom, paper packets, and other means to families and this will continue. This type of delivery of instruction is entirely new and there have been creative approaches to providing instruction for students. By this time, you should have received information on how to stay in touch with your student's teacher(s) to ask any questions and receive support for your student's learning. As far as grades, we have essentially put on pause any new grades for students, but we have provided the ability for students to reinforce their previous learning. Each building has sent a note out to parents indicating that grades in the third quarter will be based upon the content covered in classrooms up until March 13, 2020. Teachers have been providing supports to students on this content since that time. We are still working on what our fourth quarter and final grades will be based upon. As we get closer to that period, we will be sure to inform you of that process.

### Phone Survey for Technology

Many school districts, including Beaver River, use technology as a tool to provide instruction at home. In order to determine how equitable this is, we will be coordinating a short survey that will be done over the phone to

help determine the availability of technology in our students' homes. The survey should take only a minute and will be sent out in the next couple of days.

## School Lunch/Breakfast Program

Our daily delivery of school lunches to free/reduced families has been very successful. If you receive free/reduced lunches and would like to participate in this program, please contact Michele Moore in the Transportation Office at 315-346-1211 extension 570 to sign up. If your family does not participate in free/reduced lunches but your situation may have changed, or if you have never filled out an application, we are encouraging you to do so. The application can be found on our website under the "PARENT RESOURCES" on the home page ([www.brscsd.org](http://www.brscsd.org)), or by contacting Heather Pellam in the Cafeteria Office at 315-346-1211 extension 560. You still may be able to qualify by filling out an application and with approval. It can help the district as a whole to provide services to families in need even if you do not want to participate.

## Providing Childcare

In this time of need, we must make sure that the individuals who can provide services are available. While many families have solved the problem with their own childcare needs, many emergency and medical workers may be struggling to find care. If this is your situation, and you are trying to find the care, we encourage you to reach out and contact the District Office at 315-346-1211. Lastly the NYS Office of Children and Family Services is asking that all district provide a survey to determine the need for childcare. That survey can be found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3HSNNYJ>

## Other areas of Support

While many situations can be handled internally through your home, our school district and county have worked together to facilitate many support services in the mental health field. Like many of you, I have seen these unique times have added personal stress to our families. We have Beaver River Counselors, Carthage Clinic Counselors, Mountain View Counselors, as well as many other contacts available for anyone during this COVID-19 pandemic. Various contacts are on our website, but you can always call the District Office and we can get you in contact with what you may need. We want you to know that we are just a phone call away to help you with any of your needs. The number of staff in the building has been reduced, but we all have voicemail and will return your call as soon as possible.

## Other School Related Topics

### AP Exams

Traditional AP Exams will not take place. Instead, students will be able to take an online exam from home. These at-home exams will only include topics that most AP classes would have covered in class by early March. Visit the College Board website for further information, or have your child contact their AP teacher. Additionally, there are free remote learning resources available on the College Board website to help students prepare and continue learning. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the high school office.

## Scholastic Aptitude Test

Recently, Mr. Barrett, our High School Counselor, suggested to all college-bound juniors take the SAT exam on May 2, 2020 at Beaver River Central School. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the May test date for the SAT has been canceled at all test sites.

Taking a test of this magnitude in a comfortable and familiar environment is an important opportunity for college-bound juniors. We have received permission to open Beaver River as an SAT Test Center for Saturday, August 29, 2020. Hopefully by that point it will be okay for students to resume normal contact activities.

Students can sign up for the test on [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org). If any student has already signed up for the May test date, they can simply log back onto their collegeboard.org account and request the date be changed. They will be allowed to do this change for no additional charge.

Should anyone have questions, please feel free to call the Guidance Office (315-346-1211 extension 540) and leave a message, and Mr. Barrett will get back to you in a timely fashion.

## Senior Scholarships

For those seniors who are still seeking scholarship resources, many deadlines have been extended, you will need continue to check the High School Guidance web page for the latest information. Simply go to [www.brcsd.org](http://www.brcsd.org), "click" K-12 info, then Guidance, then high school and then finally, scholarship information. Again, if there are any questions, please call the Guidance Office.

## State Exams

As you may know, the NYS 3-8 ELA, NYS 3-8 Math and NYS 3-8 Science exams have been canceled for this year. We are still waiting to hear the impact of the COVID-19 closure have on NYS Regent's exams. The New York State Education Department (NYSED) will be releasing that information as well as how those changes may impact graduation requirements.

## School Events

With so many variables up in the air, we are trying to keep our school events (graduation, senior trip, prom, etc.) on the calendar for as long as we can until the last minute for cancellation. If these events are canceled, we will send out notification indicating so.

## Last note

I want to personally thank every parent, student and BRCSD staff member for his or her support during this crisis. I believe that we all are playing a part in keeping our community strong and vibrant through difficult times.

Kindest Regards,



Todd G. Green  
Superintendent