



NEW BRAUNFELS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Randy Moczygemba
Superintendent of Schools

March 22, 2020

Dear New Braunfels ISD Family,

NBISD is working with State and Local officials to help communicate changes to their Executive Orders as they occur. The Governor issued an updated Executive Order today and you may view it on the Governor's web page at: https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/EO-GA_09_COVID-19_hospital_capacity_IMAGE_03-22-2020.pdf

The Mayor of New Braunfels also issued an Amended Executive Order today which may be viewed on the city web page at: <https://www.nbtexas.org/DocumentCenter/View/17756/Amended-COVID-19-Orders>

As we all prepare for the on-line learning environment tomorrow, there are a few things I want to share with you.

First of all, this is a new experience for all of us. While we have been a 1:1 district for some time, we said upfront that the technology was meant to enhance teaching and learning opportunities and to usher in Problem Based Learning (PBL). It was never meant to replace the teacher in the classroom.

This is precisely why we are utilizing our technology to deliver online classroom experiences for all students beginning tomorrow. This will be Problem Based Learning to the full degree for both students and teachers. We have had many teachers already providing amazing online experiences for our students this week with great success. Our Curriculum and Instruction and Technology Departments have worked diligently with teachers to prepare them for this week. They will ROCK IT!!

There have been many questions asked about what this week will look like. Some of the questions and answers are listed below:

1. Will we be taking attendance?
 - a. We will not officially take attendance. We encourage all students, however, to participate in all of the learning opportunities that are provided during the closure. The participation in online learning and completing the work will be utilized to determine credit for middle school and high school classes and will be utilized by the Grade Placement Committees at all grade levels to determine a student's grade level for the next school year. Our goal is to finish this school year STRONG. If a student does not participate in these opportunities, they will not be prepared for the next grade level at elementary or course level at secondary.

2. Do I have to notify you if my child is ill?
 - a. No. The good thing is that many children will be able to participate in these learning opportunities that would have had to stay home for symptoms, such as a minor fever, during normal times. We trust your decision on whether your child is too ill to participate or not.

3. How will grades be utilized for the work that is being provided online.
 - a. We will be grading assignments to determine our student's level of understanding. There is still much discussion that will occur on our side regarding this question. We will be discussing this more with you down the road. Some of our decision will be based on how long this closure lasts, which is unknown at this time.

We will continue providing curbside breakfast from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Monday-Friday and curbside lunch from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Voss Farms and Veramendi Elementary. We will also start providing these curbside meals at Lone Star Early Childhood Center tomorrow and on this same schedule. For more details about our newest meal site at Lone Star ECC, [CLICK HERE](#).

Any child who is 18 years old or younger may participate in this program at no cost. The student may participate at any location also and they do not have to be an NBISD student. We have received a new ruling from the USDA and TDA that we can provide both lunch and breakfast to eligible students during the morning service time.

I would also like to express my appreciation to all of our parents. Your role in providing educational support for child has greatly increased. We know that you are struggling with all of the changes that the Coronavirus has caused in your lives. Please know that we are here to help you in any way that we can. "It takes a village to educate a child." Together, we will succeed!!

Our main campus phone lines are being monitored during school hours. You may contact your child's teacher via e-mail or by calling their classroom number. All phone messages are being forwarded to them. Our main district line will be monitored as well as all of the department's main lines.

Sincerely,
Randy Moczygemba
Superintendent of Schools