



# Newsletter

Your weekly updates from BCS



## A message from the superintendent

Dear Bessemer City Schools Family,

You may now be aware the Alabama Department of Education has announced school will soon be back in session to complete the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. We hope our students have used this extended break to rejuvenate and regroup, because instruction will resume April 6th thru June 5th. BCS campuses remain closed for safety reasons, therefore students will complete their work by virtual methods (read the rest of this newsletter for more information). Be sure to finish all assignments your teachers give, because - as with normal school years - **they will count toward your final grades.**

Of course, this year is anything but 'normal.' The COVID-19 health pandemic is altering life as we know it. As we maintain social/physical



### Breakfast is back!

Remember, this week we resume serving breakfast!



### Keep learning

Visit our website ([besk12.org](http://besk12.org)) for a list of supplemental resources.



### Be counted!

Complete your census count by April 1st. It's quick, easy, and confidential. Visit [uscensus.gov](http://uscensus.gov)



### SCHOOL DAYS

Instruction is set to resume April 6th thru June 5th. Contact your principal if you still need guidance.



### GRADUATION CEREMONY

Graduation ceremonies are very important. We are working on a plan to allow seniors to capture this moment.



distancing and take sanitization to a new level, we now find ourselves strangely beginning to acclimate to a new sense of normal. And, as news intensifies over the vastly growing dangers of the disease, we want to remind you of something very important: you are built for this moment.

Hope, faith, and determination are inherent in mankind - even in the most extreme circumstances. And, while the experts rightly admonish us that the worst of this disease is yet to come — we press on, because this too shall pass.



While we have all been forced to slow down and even reevaluate life, I pray that you will pause long enough to consider this: everything happens for a reason. Ask yourself, what is your reason? It is my deepest hope that your reason is bigger than yourself. Because, when our purpose outweighs anything tangible - we are propelled toward a larger good so great it's beyond measure.

I hope you find the time to reflect, to journal, to get to know yourself deeper and serve your neighbors (those right next to you). Perhaps we will emerge from the present tribulation better than we entered.

Until then, know that your teachers, leaders, and staff at BCS are with you. Stay safe.

*Dr. Autumm Jeter,*

*Superintendent of Bessemer City Schools*



### THE BEST OF BESSEMER!

Please, join me in extending a hearty "THANK YOU" to the team solving the puzzle of distance education for our Bessemer City students.

Dr. Marcy Burroughs, the director curriculum and instruction, along with a team of determined C & I professionals, have worked to ensure that a comprehensive academic plan is in place for all students. She and her department are providing virtual professional development, organizing laptop distribution and collaborating with other Directors to ensure equity for all students.





# Happening this week!!!

## When & where to pick up your laptop:

- Abrams Elementary School | April 3rd | 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Charles F. Hard Elementary School | April 2nd | 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- Greenwood Elementary School | April 3rd | 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Jonesboro Elementary School | April 3rd | 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Westhills Elementary School | April 2nd | 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- BCMS | April 1st | 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- BCHS | March 31st | 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. \*AND\* April 1st | 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Bessemer City Spirit!



**Bessemer City Virtual Spirit Week**

# SPIRIT WEEK

First Week of E-Learning

**MAR 30th-APR 3rd**

March 30 <b>MONDAY</b>	<b>Motivational Monday</b> Post a selfie with a motivational quote for the caption
March 31 <b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>TikTok Tuesday</b> Post your Best TIKTOK VIDEO
April 1 <b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>Wild About You Wednesday</b> Give a special (Appropriate) shout out to your favorite teacher(s)!
April 2 <b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>PJs &amp; Thursday</b> Upload a photo rocking those Quarantine PJs!
April 3 <b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>B.T.O ON A FRIDAY</b> Show off your Tiger Pride! (Spirit Shirts)

Be sure to use #BC2020 #BCVCOVID19 #BCVSW on your photos & videos **#BC2020**

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## NO INTERNET? THESE COMPANIES ARE PROVIDING FREE OPTIONS.



### **AT&T (1-800-288-2020):**

- Free access to its public WiFi hotspots
- Suspending terminations and late fees for nonpayment
- Unlimited data for consumer home internet wireline customers and fixed wireless internet customers



### **Comcast (1-800-934-6489):**

- Xfinity WiFi Free For Everyone via hotspots
- Discounting data limits
- No disconnect or late fees
- News, Information and Educational Content on X1 and

### **T-Mobile (1-800) 937-8997):**

- Unlimited data to all current customers who have plans with data for the next 60 days
- Additional data to mobile hotspots



### **Charter (1-844-488-8395):**

- Free Spectrum broadband and Wi-Fi access for 60 days to households with K-12 and/or college students, who do not already have a Spectrum broadband subscription, at any service level up to 100 MBPS. Install fees waived.
- Open Wi-Fi hotspots across their footprint for public use
- For eligible low-income households without school-aged children, Charter continues to offer Spectrum Internet Assist, a low-cost broadband program delivering speeds of 30 Mbps.



**Q: When will eLearning begin and end? Will BCS virtual classrooms, credit recovery, and Acellus continue?**

A: E-learning will begin on April 6. Students are encouraged to use the online resources located at <http://www.bessk12.org/> during the mandatory closing of school.

**Q: Will my child receive grades for eLearning assignments?**

A: Yes, students will earn grades. Report cards will be mailed before or on April 17.

**Q: Will Special Education timelines/IEP meetings/evaluations/re-evaluations be amended due to the closure ?**

A: IEP Teams are not required to meet and staff are not required to complete evaluations during Governors Ivey’s mandated school closure (March 16 to April 3).

**Q: I hear that Lawson State is planning on Dual Enrollment Classes to continue in a virtual format. Are we going to allow our students to do this?**

A: Colleges are the authority on dual enrollment classes. Ground classes will not be held on campus after Monday, March 16th. Their plan is to resume on-campus classes on Monday, April 6th. Ground classes moved to an online delivery via Blackboard Ultra on Wednesday, March 18th. In the meantime, it is very important for students to read updates as they are announced through our website and email. This is very important, as their dual enrollment coursework will continue.

**Q: What if the mandated closure is extended?**

A: The state is working on guidance for schools to allow virtual learning should closure be extended and we will prepare accordingly and share that information with you.

**Q: What about proms?** A: To be determined.

**Q: What about graduation?**

A: BCHS graduation- To be determined.

B. Elementary/Middle school ceremonies, programs, extra-curricular programs are canceled for this school year.



**FAQ**  
**FREQUENTLY ASK**  
**QUESTIONS**

QUESTIONS

**Q: Will my child still have to pay their senior fees?**

A: Yes, if there is a graduation ceremony. However, they will only be responsible for paying a fraction of their senior fees, which will be used to cover the cost of the graduation ceremony. The location of the graduation ceremony will determine the exact amount.

**Q: What about all the senior activities (Class Day, Senior Picnic, Senior Luncheon, etc.)?**

A: ALL activities, except graduation, are canceled.

**Q: If graduation is canceled, will we receive a refund from Jostens?**

A: Jostens should answer this question. Someone from the high school will contact the sales representative.

**Q: Will we receive a refund on the senior trip to Six Flags?**

A: Yes

**Q: Will Kindergarten Registration still occur?**

A: Yes, the online registration portal is available for kindergarten registration. The registration link is located on the district's website <http://www.bessk12.org/>.

**Q: What about athletics?**

A: All athletics are suspended for the remainder of this academic school year.

**Q: What about field trips and other school-sponsored activities?**

A: All school-sponsored activities scheduled during the statewide school closure - including field trips - are suspended for the remainder of this academic year.

**Q: I have a student assigned to New Horizon Alternative School. Will this closure affect his or her assigned days?**

A: March 16-April 3 will count toward the assignment.

## DON'T FORGET:

Stay connected to Bessemer City Schools for the latest information -

- Via website @ [bessk12.org](http://bessk12.org)
- Facebook @BCSTigers
- Instagram @BCSTigers
- Snapchat @BessemerCitySchools
- YouTube @BCSTigers



# COVID19 Safety



### SOCIAL DISTANCE

If you must go out, be sure to keep six to ten feet between you and others.



### WASH OFTEN

Wash your hands often or use alcohol rich hand sanitizer.



### STAY HOME

The best way to protect yourself and others is to stay home as much as possible.