



# Bellwood-Antis School District

The BASD creates a learner-centered environment and engages students in meaningful interdisciplinary experiences that cultivate the development of future-ready citizens.

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[www.blwd.k12.pa.us](http://www.blwd.k12.pa.us)

March 12, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you know, the COVID-19 coronavirus situation is constantly evolving. New information and protocols are released daily. I will continue to do everything possible to keep you up to date and informed.

## Cleaning

An in-depth cleaning regiment has begun at the school district and with vehicles that transport our students. The district will hire a substitute custodian to disinfect all door handles, drinking fountains, handrails, and other common areas. This will be done throughout the school day. The custodial staff has been trained on deep cleaning techniques and will use those techniques after school hours throughout the district. All students and employees are to keep the surfaces of desks and other workstations clear so proper cleaning may take place. The cafeteria has also implemented deep cleaning techniques and the use of share tables has been eliminated.

## Extracurricular Activities

Xscape Xstravaganza – March 20, 2020 has been postponed. The district will be in communication with the participating schools concerning rescheduling this event.

Athletics - PIAA Board of Directors decided this morning by a unanimous vote to suspend the PIAA basketball and AA boys' and girls' swimming and diving championships for minimally a two week period.

PIAA, by enforcing a two-week hiatus from our basketball and AA swimming championships, believes this action will allow schools time to perform self-assessments and make decisions to promote optimal health conditions in their communities.

## Fieldtrips

All fieldtrips and CBI trips for the month of **March** have been **canceled or rescheduled**.

## Is there a possibility of the school district closing?

Many colleges are beginning to suspend all face-to-face classes. This is a greater problem for colleges, many of which are completing spring breaks where students and faculty have traveled out of the state and/or the country. Closing our schools would be a last resort. This is a decision that would be made after direct consultation with the PA



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Department of Health, the Center for Disease Control, and other Blair County school districts. With that said, the possibility does exist that we could be directed to close. The use of Flexible Instructional Days (FIDs) will be considered. We understand that closing our schools would create a whole new set of challenges for families. If this enters into the realm of possibility, you will be notified well in advance.

## How do I identify COVID-19?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that COVID-19 is transmitted person-to-person and can present mild to severe respiratory illnesses. Symptoms include fever, cough and difficulty breathing which may appear two to fourteen days after exposure. If you or a family member is experiencing these symptoms, please consult with your physician.

## How is the District preventing the spread of this or any virus?

The Center for Disease Control and the PA Department of Health offer suggestions to limit the spread of all illnesses. The Bellwood-Antis School District has implemented the following measures:

- Monitoring absenteeism patterns
- Tracking all student and staff trips
- Increased diligence with the cleaning of common surfaces
- Encouraging students and staff to wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth, and staying home when you are sick.

We are in frequent communication with the Department of Health and Blair County Emergency Management. As noted, this situation is changing by the hour. You will be notified in the event further restrictions are required.

Thank you for your patience.

Thomas McInroy, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools  
Bellwood-Antis School District