



*Blue Ridge
Educational Center
Unlocking Learning Potential*

April 9, 2020

Dear BREC Students, Parents and Caregivers:

As we move into a holiday weekend that is very different from what we imagined, I want to reach out to you with many thanks and to provide you an update on what we've planned for your student over the coming weeks. Thank you so much for your efforts and for working together with us to adopt new learning routines. This is no simple task and we recognize the many barriers that families are facing. Together with you, our school has met its goal to have 100% of our students practicing and reinforcing skills that they have learned and to reconnect with their teachers and school staff by April 9th.

Next Tuesday, April 14th, teachers will begin remote instruction that is designed to allow students to practice new and previously taught skills. No instruction will occur during the holiday break (April 10-April 13). By tomorrow afternoon, all students should have received their special "Go-Bags" that contain materials and incentives for supporting their activities at home. Every two weeks teachers will provide students and families with new lessons and materials, these are mapped out on each student's interactive lesson plans.

Updated materials will be available as follows: April 14, April 27, May 11 and May 26

Teachers will continue to communicate with students and families directly through virtual conferences, phone, or via email each week for scheduled remote teaching time. Unscheduled instructional sessions may also be provided as the student needs. Many of you have already attended scheduled meetings with your teachers and have practiced the new ways to be in touch with them; this is fantastic! Please keep up the momentum. In addition to scheduled time with teachers, they will also maintain office hours where students can reach them for support as needed. Ms. Kristen and Ms. Sueann will continue check-ins with your families and be available for you to contact them. We hope to keep our school-family connected and strong throughout the many changes we are all facing. I believe this effort is reflected in the activities students are being asked to complete. We have already been so proud of the artwork and videos that students are creating and sharing.

Although it is important for students to continue to practice the skills they were taught prior to schools being closed and to engage in the new learning that will be provided through June 5, there is no requirement for students to submit assignments or complete the lessons and activities being provided. Final grades for the 2019-20 school year will be based upon grades received in the first through third nine-week grading periods. Students in grades 9-12 taking high school credit bearing courses will still receive a percentage grade as these impact GPA and other academic factors. These students shall be extended every opportunity to make up any missed work through the last day students were present on March 13. This work is to be

accepted through May 1 without penalty. At the end of the academic year in June, it is our intent that students will be promoted to the next grade unless the student is significantly behind and conversations discussing the possibility of retention had occurred prior to March 13, 2020. While assignments are optional, we cannot stress how important it will be for students to continue to be studious, practice what they've learned and to take on the new learning so that they are best prepared for next school year, and, as always, to continue to be good "ambassadors".

Additional factors for students in middle and high school:

- Students enrolled in a class with an end of course SOL test will have the test waived in accordance with their placing school division
- Students in Virtual Virginia and/or APEX online courses will continue with the coursework as they are able. BREC staff will provide support as needed.
- For 2020 graduates: BREC teachers and I will work with students individually to finalize all graduation requirements. Graduating seniors enrolled in a class with an end of course SOL test will have the test waived per their placing school division.

Please continue to communicate with teachers so that we can ensure your student has access to learning and to their social-emotional supports from BREC. We recognize that there are still many questions yet to be answered and we are here for you, experimenting and learning together, to the best of our abilities, in these severe circumstances.

Warmest regards,

April Strosnider

Executive Director