





APRIL 15, 2020

Update for District 3 and Resources during the Pandemic

In an effort to ensure the District 3 community stays informed and I stay connected with our families, students and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic, I am sending the District 3 newsletter more frequently. I am happy to serve as a conduit of information for the community throughout the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic and hope you utilize these newsletters as a way to stay informed and engaged.

I hope everyone enjoyed the 3-day weekend and took some time to relax and do something they enjoy. For those who celebrated holidays, I hope you found a way to keep family traditions alive and make new memories. Our family celebrated by decorating cookies and sharing family meals via technology. Although it is difficult to be physically distant from our friends and families, we all need to continue to do our part.

As we enter the 3rd week of online learning and the 2nd week of the 4th quarter, I want to begin by saying THANK YOU! Thank you to families for supporting our students and thank you to our students for being engaged. During the first week of the 4th quarter we had an average daily attendance of 88% of students "attending" classes online. This is good, but we can do better. If you or a friend or neighbor have a child still in need of a computer device for online learning, please call your school, visit the school website to make an appointment to get one, or let me know and I will help. So far, we have distributed nearly 90,000 laptops/devices to Broward County Public Schools students, and we are working hard to make sure every student has the tools they need to get engaged. I have also included a link below for those who need information on resources for getting connected to the internet.

<u>Click to find out how to get two months of FREE INTERNET</u> access through COMCAST

Or call toll-free 1-855-846-8376.

 This week 99% of teachers published a course in our online learning platform CANVAS. Our teachers are working hard to help make this transition as smooth as possible, so please take a moment this week to send a note of thanks or words of encouragement through email. Remember to continue to have your student(s) log in to their single sign on every day, check for assignments in CANVAS, and encourage them to do their best and take breaks when they need them! Here are a few photos that some District 3 families have shared of their online learning experience.





• Huge thanks to our Food and Nutrition Services Department employees for the incredible job they are doing feeding students across our community! My children and I stopped by a few schools to personally thank the dedicated staff working to ensure students in our community are being fed.



- As a parent, teacher and a school board member, I understand the importance of nutritious meals for our students. Nutritious food equals brain power and promotes overall good health! If your family is in need, grab and go meals are available at 51 sites across Broward County Public Schools. Please click this link to see a listing of sites, details and a map of locations. <u>https://bit.ly/3aHweZZ</u>
- Broward County Public Schools' Facilities and Construction staff are working to ensure SMART projects continue while our campuses are closed, using CDC guidelines for the safety of our employees, partnering contractors and the public. Please visit the link below for the most recent District 3 SMART updates.

https://www.browardschools.com/smartstatus

• The importance of reading to and with our younger students is greater than ever. Our partners at United Way of Broward created #UnitedWayStoryTime where community members record themselves reading books for our youngest students to listen to. I was happy to record myself reading one of my children's favorite books. I have included the YouTube link below. I hope you enjoy it!



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_Lr3HR8h1s

• I encourage everyone to stay up-to-date on the latest news related to the BCPS response to the Coronavirus pandemic by regularly visiting www.browardschools.com/coronavirus. Updates will be

posted there as they are received. Below are some important links to visit to stay informed:

- Five Steps to Getting Started with BCPS Distance Learning
- o Update on Academics During Coronavirus Closure
- o Parent Instructions for Distance Learning
- o Learning Never Closes Instructions for ALL STUDENTS
- o <u>Update on State Testing and Other Requirements</u>
- Parent Guide to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019nCov)
- Fact Sheet: What You Need to Know About the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCov)
- Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCov) Frequently Asked
 Questions (FAQs)

As always, it is my honor and privilege to serve as your District 3 school board member. Please continue to send me your ideas, questions and concerns, so we can continue to improve. My e-mail address is <u>heather.brinkworth@browardschools.com</u> or you may leave a message on our office line at 754-321-2003.

Stay safe and be well!

Heather

Heather Pomper Brinkworth School Board Member District 3

SMART Updates

For The Quarter Ending December 31, 2019 | FY20-Q2



For a 2020 Plan Update please visit: https://www.smore.com/2smwp

