



**BLACK RIVER**  
PUBLIC SCHOOL

April 10, 2020

Dear Black River Families,

All of us at BR are hopeful that your families are healthy and well during this difficult time. While the routines of school and life have been disrupted, our relationship with our community is vibrant and strong. Daily, I hear stories of students and teachers reaching out and having fun with topics online. The elementary teachers and assistants have been reading books to kids and posting them for all to see. A biology lesson about what our world is going through went out to some of our high schoolers to help them understand this situation. Even when life changes and things are uncertain, Black River will work to be a place that families will see as caring, informative and reliable.

Starting next week Monday, April 13, teachers will be sending out academic work for your students through Google Classroom. You should expect a communication from teachers in the morning giving their well-wishes along with some activities that they know are important for your students. These communications will be aimed at social and emotional health as well as being plans for academics. Expect these to come from teachers every Monday as a means to support and also engage your child academically. Teachers will also make it known how they will be available for face to face digital interaction with their students.

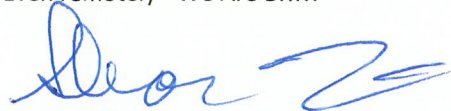
Questions abound about how we will make sure to reach ALL of our Black River students. The first goal is to engage students electronically. This will provide in some cases, real time interaction and feedback about student work. It will also allow for teachers to deliver academic content to students in a way that allows kids to see their teachers' faces and potentially interact with classmates over Google Meet. Along with Google Meet, Google Classroom and email will be used as necessary. Thanks to all who filled out the survey regarding technology and internet connectivity in your homes. Because of that information, we are distributing Chromebooks to those who indicated that need.

There will still be difficulties in delivering "school" to students with a reliance on technology. For this reason, teachers have been making phone calls to households that were unable to fill out the survey and offer assistance with devices. We have also posted resources for inexpensive and potentially free internet connection on our website. These resources will be made available to those that need them and even if this is still a challenge for some families, we will make packets for pick up or deliver them to those who are unable to connect digitally.

This letter coincides with more resources available to you in the form of a Google Slides presentation and that same presentation read and narrated for you all. Check out one or both of these as it will give explanations about why the school is using the plan that we are using, as well as specifics about how teachers will work with students to be sure grades only go UP during this time of remote learning! That presentation also explains processes in place to support our kids with special needs.

Finally, please know that NO students will have their grades suffer during this time of closure and ALL students will be supported in the caring way that you have come to expect from Black River.

Even remotely - We Are BR!!!



Shannon Brunink  
Head of School