



Battle River School Division

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May 8, 2020

To: Parents / Guardians of BRSD students
Re: COVID-19 and our schools – we're looking ahead

Hello everyone.

You've likely heard the news that Alberta is getting ready to reduce some of the public health restrictions that have been in place since mid-March. We have received many questions about what that means for schools.

At-home learning continues until June

On May 6 we confirmed with the Minister of Education that Alberta schools will not re-open until the fall. Until late June, students will continue to learn at home, guided by teachers.

School divisions are working together with Alberta Education and others, such as the provincial School Councils Association, School Boards Association, Teachers Association and Superintendents group to create plans for how back-to-school might look. Ensuring the health and safety of students and staff will guide all decisions.

Food support

All schools have been offering a nutrition program this year, thanks to a government grant. Now that schools are closed, those nutrition funds are being used to support local food banks and food distribution programs. If you can't access a food bank or you need a bit extra, we might be able to help. Please email nutrition@brsd.ab.ca and let us know how to reach you.

Funding challenges

We have all known that BRSD was facing financial challenges and would have to reduce spending for next year. Now that we have complete funding numbers for the 2020-2021 school year, we know that PUF and Inclusive Education funding have been reduced a lot. These are the funds that allow us to support our youngest learners and students of all ages who have more complex learning / care needs. As we are looking forward and making plans for next year, we know there will have to be changes. We will have fewer dollars and our services will look different. Supporting students will always be the top priority.

Taking care of yourself is important

May 4 to 10 is Mental Health Week in Canada. That's a great time to remember that taking care of yourself is as important as taking care of anyone else.

Our school division has compiled some wellness resources for parents, on family-related topics including parenting and managing stress; breathing for relaxation; tips for getting enough sleep and more. There's information on supporting ASD students from home and general learning tips, too. Here's the link to that page: [Wellness and Learning Supports for Parents](#). If you have trouble with the link, please visit our website at brsd.ab.ca.

Stay well. We will talk again soon.

Rita Marler, Superintendent of Schools

May 8, 2020.