



March 13, 2020

BSM Parents and Guardians,

The health, safety, and well-being of our students, families, and faculty/staff continues to be our top priority.

As the novel coronavirus COVID-19 continues to impact communities, BSM will be moving to an Extended Online School learning environment. Please see the schedule below for more detailed information.

You have likely heard the recommendations that came from Governor Tim Walz and the MDH today. At this time there is not a mandate or a broad-based recommendation that schools close. However, the [MDH is advising social distancing](#) which includes going to “distance or e-learning in some settings.” BSM is in the unique position of being able to deliver curriculum via Extended Online School in a highly effective manner. Almost seven years ago, BSM was one of the first schools to implement online learning for weather-related school closures. Our faculty have been trained and have extensive experience delivering curriculum online. In preparation for this particular move to Extended Online School, our faculty have developed new skills and strategies that will enhance the online learning experience for our students. Much like organizations who are able to allow employees to work remotely, BSM has that option for our students.

The schedule for the next three weeks is as follows:

- **Monday-Tuesday, March 16 and 17:** No School, Professional Development Days for Faculty
 - *Building will be open both days for students to pick up materials from 7:30am - 3:30pm*
- **Wednesday-Friday, March 18-20:** Extended Online School in Effect, Building Closed
- **Week of Spring Break:** No School, no online assignments will be posted this week.
- **Week of March 30 - April 3:** Extended Online School in Effect, Building Closed

Building Information

- Class will not be held in person over the next three weeks, however, at this point the building will remain open to faculty and staff the week of March 16-20 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
 - **If students need to pick up items from school that will be needed for at least the next three weeks, they should do so on Monday or Tuesday, March 16 and 17 between 8am-3:30pm.**
- Phones will be answered between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. You can call the main office line at 952-927-4176.

Extended Online School Information

- Students and parents will receive a separate email by Tuesday, March 17 with specific details related to Extended Online School. Care, planning and preparation have been taken to ensure that the online experience for students is positive and meaningful. As you will see in the detailed information provided next week, teachers will be screencasting to students on a regular basis to ensure that students can hear and see their teachers during this time.
 - The curriculum will be delivered via the student's PowerSchool Learning page, which is a familiar tool for students and used regularly throughout the school year.
 - If a student is unable to do online assignments during Extended Online School, please call the student in sick through the regular attendance line. Junior High Attendance 952-915-4356 or Senior High Attendance at 952-927-4177.

Tech Support

- Tech support will be available for students during the three-week time frame. Students can get support by emailing Bill Cheney at bcheney@bsmschool.org or by calling the main office line at 952-927-4176.

Information on Athletics, Activities, Volunteering, Co-Curriculars

- At this time, all athletics/activities (including all practices and games), co-curricular activities, banquets, and community service opportunities have been postponed effective immediately until further notice.
 - **RKVC and Discipleship in Society Information:** We will be waiving the service requirements for all students in Discipleship in Society and RKVC from now until April 3, 2020, at which point we will reassess the situation and communicate further direction. Watch for an email from respective advisors on Monday.

Counseling Services

- BSM counselors will be available to support our students during Extended Online School.
- Counselors will be communicating directly with students regarding the procedure for making online appointments.
- For a list of school counselors, [click here](#).

Social Distancing

- Current recommendations continue to emphasize the importance of social distancing. This means avoiding close contact with others, as well as group gatherings.
- To that end, we ask that faculty/staff and students refrain from getting together in large groups over the next three weeks to help prevent the spreading of germs.

The hope is to continue on-campus classes on Monday, April 6, but we will continue to evaluate the situation and make decisions accordingly. We will keep families and faculty/staff informed via email, robocall, and our [COVID-19 resource webpage](#) in the weeks ahead.

We'd like to thank our faculty/staff and families for your flexibility, cooperation, and support as we navigate this evolving situation.

We continue to pray for the lives affected in our community, and around the world. May the peace of the Lord be with us all throughout the Lenten season.

Sincerely,

Adam Ehrmantraut, EdD, BSM President

Susan Skinner, EdD, Senior High Principal

Rikki Mortl, EdS, Junior High Principal