



Coronavirus Update 14 - CLOSED REMAINDER OF YEAR

Superintendent Obeng <superintendent@bsdvt.org>
Reply-To: superintendent@bsdvt.org
To: superintendent@bsdvt.org

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SCHOOL IS DISMISSED FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

Greetings BSD Parents, Staff, and Community,

This evening I learned that Governor Scott has declared that **all schools in Vermont shall remain closed** for the rest of the school year unless the coronavirus situation de-escalates enough to allow them to reopen:

“Governatorial Directive 5 - Schools for preK-12 students shall remain dismissed for in-person instruction for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, unless otherwise ordered by the Governor if the COVID-19 response should allow. Schools are required to have continuity of learning plans for remote learning implemented on or before Monday, April 13, 2020.” -Office of the Governor

I am heartbroken by this decision for our students, but fully supportive. This is not the way teachers, students, or staff wanted or expected to end the year. We were all looking forward to celebrations, graduations, school assemblies, and opportunities to connect in-person, face-to-face both in and out of the classroom. On a personal note, it's certainly not how I wanted my time leading Burlington School District to end.

Much like my message to you a few evenings ago, I don't have a lot more information about what this means at this time. Again, our leadership team is already communicating and making plans to meet, and we are looking forward to guidance from both the Governor's office and the Agency of Education regarding what this means.

In the meantime, here are a few things we know and a few things we won't know until we receive additional guidance.

What we do know:

- Remote learning for students will continue and move from maintenance of learning to continuity of learning, in-line with the information I have shared previously.
- Food Services will continue.
- Childcare for Essential Workers will continue as long as we continue to have the capacity of staff volunteers.

A few questions we do not know until guidance (there may be others):

- How will assessments be done?
- How will students advance to the next grade?
- Will there be a graduation? **(AOE will make a decision before May 8.)**
- What will online learning look like now?
- What will happen to students in Special Education and with disabilities?

While I know that many of us are deeply saddened by this decision, we have to remember that right now there is a pandemic raging across the globe. Many of us have been personally impacted and understand we need to respond now so that things can get better. We have to stand ready to do what we can to curb the spread of this virus and the disease it causes.

Thank you for hanging in there in this process, doing what you can to slow the spread of this disease, and being patient with us as we figure out the next steps. As soon as I know more, you will know more.

Join the Journey,

Superintendent Obeng