BV Schools COVID 19 UPDATE 3.18. 2020 11:00 am

BV Schools Families,

Please see below updates:

• The Colorado Department of Education has canceled state standardized testing and accountability for the 2019-20 school year. These tests were scheduled for April and will not be administered this year or used for accreditation for school or districts due to COVID 19 closures and uncertainties.
• I have been notified that by the end of this week, Governor Polis will be making a statewide recommendation or directive for school districts regarding extended school closures. To date, 98% of school districts in the state are closed due to an extended spring break. The Buena Vista School District is awaiting the Governor's announcement to determine the extent of its closure.
• Once a closure time is determined, the school district will be in contact with families regarding provision of educational services. There are many considerations of what education will look like outside of school walls and ensuring access for all. We will work through this and will follow guidance provided from our state. We are fully expecting waivers for instructional time and required school attendance. We are also expecting latitude in credit requirements and graduation guidance for our seniors. I ask our district community to be patient and understanding as we navigate the coming days. We will support families in providing learning opportunities throughout any extended closure. More information will be provided in coming days. The district leadership team is meeting regularly to prepare for these unprecedented days ahead. As of now, we are on an extended spring break and encourage you to enjoy the time from school with your family.
• One of the district's priority areas is "creating spaces of optimism." Brain research provides evidence that deeper learning occurs when students (all humans!) are in state of safety, belonging, and joy. For this reason, as a staff we continually learn together about how to best create these spaces of optimism when students are together. Our commitment to academic growth cannot be separated from our ability to create such spaces of optimism. Steve Gross, a researcher and leader in this area brain science and health, and who has provided professional training for our staff, recently posted a short video as a guide to parents in talking with your children about the pandemic. It is simple and for many, will reassure you that what you are doing is right on track and enough. I encourage you to take a few minutes to view. You can find it here: https://vimeo.com/398256226 or from our website.
• The district will continue "grab and go" lunches during Spring Break (March 23-27). Pick up will continue at Avery Parsons between 11:00-1:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Delivery is also available by emailing: emily@cornerstonechurchbv.com or leaving a message at 719-395-7099 with your address. Meals are available to all age 18 and under.
• Keep looking up and see the good. It will not always be this way. Staying open to all this circumstance has to shape us, restore us, and bring us together will lead us to the good. Ask for help when you need.