



THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

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**The School Board of
Broward County, Florida**

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April 6, 2020

Dear Teachers,

I want to say thank you! Thank you for your efforts to adapt your teaching under the conditions of physical distancing. Thanks to your individual and collective work, we have temporarily migrated teaching and learning to a digital ecosystem. Our community can be proud of you and the resulting outcomes.

During the week of March 30th to April 3rd, our first week of distance learning:

- 98% of teachers had published courses in Canvas. We are working with the remaining teachers to raise this number to 100% early this week.
- 96% of students enrolled Broward County Public Schools signed-in to the District's network at least once. Schools and District staff are reaching out to students that have not yet engaged in distance learning.
- Daily engagement started at 78% of students on Monday and progressively increased throughout the week. Students should be logging into sso.browardschools.com each school day to be acknowledged as engaged. Some students were not being acknowledged as engaged due to not refreshing their sign-in each day or by using the Canvas Student app for iOS or Android in lieu of signing-in. Students are welcome to use the CanvasStudent app – **after they sign-in** to sso.browardschools.com.
- The third quarter was successfully closed out. The number of missing grades for students was not significantly different than historical trends. Individual schools and teachers are being followed up with to complete this process as needed.
- The fourth quarter successfully launched today with students rostered to your courses.

Most importantly, the ability to maintain the connection between you and your students has been successfully implemented. The combination of teacher interactions through video chat and audio calls in Microsoft Teams, messages and discussion groups in Canvas, and other methods has meant that physical distancing has not meant social isolation. Again, thank you for your extraordinary efforts.

Trainings for teachers continue to be offered for Canvas, Teams, digital resources and other relevant topics. Please continue to check your BCPS Outlook Inbox for **BCPS Alerts** for details on these and other important information.



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Again, our highest priority is to engage students in high-quality learning experiences. As professional educators we know that student presence is necessary. When students are present, we then work to engage them with high-quality learning experiences. Each student's efforts with the curriculum of high-quality learning experiences drives the level of achievement. This process is true for both for traditional school-based learning and distance learning.

Each of you is having to adapt your curriculum to the new reality of orchestrating student learning remotely. Students are having to be guided to work that they must do on their own. The time available for direct instruction and teacher interaction is different during distance learning, in both quantity and modality, than in school-based experiences. The resources at www.browardschools.com/learningnevercloses provide supports from our experiences last week, best practices from Broward and Florida Virtual Schools, and insights from the experiences of peer districts around the country. **All of these sources inform us that we need to nurture the student as a human being first if we are to then help them achieve as a scholar.**

In addition to returning to Tier 1 instruction last week, BCPS has commenced delivering support services to students. These services will also be delivered remotely through a combination of school and district staff. Please remember that you can see which of your students are designated as receiving Exceptional Student Education, Bilingual/ESOL, Response-to-Intervention, 504, and/or Gifted services on the SEPA app on your class roster page in Canvas. School and district personnel are assisting students directly in Canvas (if the coach, ESP, or paraprofessional has been granted permission) and IEP and other support meetings are being held in Microsoft Teams. The form of these accommodations will be different during distance learning, but these students deserve, and will receive our best efforts, to have their needs addressed. School counselors, social workers, attendance counselors, literacy coaches and other support staff are now beginning to deliver support to students through a combination of Canvas and Microsoft Teams.

Please continue to explore the resources available to you and your students. Please join your colleagues on the BCPS [Yammer.com](https://www.browardschools.com/yammer) grade level and course discussions to learn and contribute. Now, more than ever, is when each teacher is called to be a student – not only a student of their students learning needs, but a student of new technology and pedagogy. And to assist us in navigating these challenging times, the Superintendent's *Mindfulness in BCPS* Initiative is offering multiple resources detailed at:

<https://browardschools.instructure.com/courses/868545>.

Thank you, and congratulations, for your efforts and your successes. This time is challenging on our professional and personal lives. I hope that you and yours are, and continue to remain, both safe and happy.

With deepest respect and gratitude,

Daniel F. Gohl, Chief Academic Officer



BCPS Calendar for Remainder of 2019-20 School Year

As of April 06, 2020

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Events</u>
April 06 – April 09	Monday – Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarter 4 begins • Instructional days (remote)
April 10	Friday	Schools Closed – Holiday
April 13 - April 17	Monday - Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructional days (remote)
April 20 – April 24	Monday - Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructional days (remote)
April 22	Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Anticipated</i> date for Report Cards to be issued
April 27 – May 1	Monday - Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructional days (remote)
May 1	Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Anticipated</i> date for Interim Reports to be submitted
May 4 – May 08	Monday – Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructional Days (<i>To Be Determined if remote or back in school buildings</i>)
May 11 – May 15	Monday - Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructional Days (<i>To Be Determined if remote or back in school buildings</i>)
May 18 – May 22	Monday - Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructional Days (<i>To Be Determined if remote or back in school buildings</i>)
May 25	Monday	Schools Closed – Memorial Day
May 26 – May 29	Tuesday - Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructional Days (<i>To Be Determined if remote or back in school buildings</i>)
June 1 - June 2	Monday - Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructional Days (<i>To Be Determined if remote or back in school buildings</i>)
June 2	Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently scheduled last day of school for students.
June 3	Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employee Planning Day. Currently scheduled last day for teachers.

www.browardschools.com/coronavirus & www.browardschools.com/learningnevercloses



Additional Information for Teachers

Special Program Classrooms and Students with Complex Disabilities

ESE Teachers: Contact individual families to share about remote learning opportunities designed to meet the needs of your students and families. Schedule individual time with students and families to address specialized needs and collaborate on IEP goals. Additional information and support for special program teachers and remote instructional resources can be found on canvas at:

Including students instructed on Access points: <https://browardschools.instructure.com/enroll/Y3ANF3>

Supporting Students with ASD: <https://browardschools.instructure.com/enroll/7F78LN>

ESE Learning Never Closes – Parent Resource for Students with complex needs in grades K-5:

<https://browardschools.instructure.com/enroll/XTLXDN>

Middle School SVE: <https://browardschools.instructure.com/enroll/4M6CRM>

High School SVE: <https://browardschools.instructure.com/enroll/BMBJFX>

Secondary Behavior Course: <https://browardschools.instructure.com/enroll/8RN77Y>

Early Childhood Education Teachers (Birth to PreK)

Contact individual families to share about remote learning opportunities designed to meet the needs of your students and families. Additional information and support for early childhood education teachers and remote instruction can be found at: <https://browardschools.instructure.com/enroll/GPBEBW>.

Bilingual/ESOL Services

Bilingual/ESOL services are delivered both by the general education teacher and the school/District support personnel. District documents are being published in Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian-Creole, and Arabic. Families that read languages other than English are strongly encouraged to use Google Chrome as their browser and install the Chrome Translate extension. Instructions on this, and other Bilingual/ESOL supports are at:

https://browardschools.instructure.com/courses/411/pages/bilingual-slash-esol-resources?module_item_id=22457486

Need Technical Support? → Contact your school's Microtech
Need Canvas Support? → Use the Canvas Support Button for email/phone support



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We can do both.

These are not either/or statements.

These are both/and statements.

Engagement precedes achievement.

The sequence matters.



Your students need you.

The quality of interaction is the foundation of their learning.

Thank you for creating discussion boards, [video chats](#), and other ways to interact with students.