

March 26, 2020

Dear Warrior Families,

The COVID-19 global pandemic and directives from Governor Walz and the Minnesota Department of Education have greatly impacted the lives of our students, staff and families in the Brainerd Lakes Area. I want to thank each of you for your patience and kindness as our staff have worked tirelessly, over the past ten days to plan for distance learning for all students at ISD 181, to provide school-age child care and to prepare meals for the children in our community! Together, our staff and community have worked in partnership to address our present challenges, all on behalf of our children and families in the Brainerd Public School District.

I am writing to keep you updated as significant changes and expectations have occurred in relation to COVID-19 this week. On Wednesday, March 25, 2020, Governor Walz and MDE Commissioner Richer held press conferences to update Minnesotans to “Stay at Home – Limit Movement” from Friday, March 27 at 11:59 p.m. to Friday, April 10, 2020. Governor Walz announced that Minnesota’s schools will remain closed until May 4, 2020.

During this period of time, distance learning will take place for all PK-Grade 12 students. Our school district is well-prepared to implement the best practice teaching strategies. Students and staff have been equipped with the technology and educational resources needed for ensuring a viable and robust education, while ensuring daily contact with one another. If you have not yet picked up your child’s educational materials and/or computer, please contact your school office to set up a time and date for access.

The current plan is to have students return to school on Tuesday, May 5, 2020; however, this decision will be re-evaluated as time gets closer. Brainerd Public Schools will keep you informed of updated changes through the Skylert notification system, our district website at isd181.org and on our social media accounts.

Healthy meals will continue to be provided for children ages 18 and under. Meals can be picked up at Washington Educational Services Building, Garfield Elementary and Nisswa Elementary from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday. High-quality child care, for children ages four to 8th grade will remain available to families of emergency response, health care, critical care professions and school staff on Monday-Friday, 6:30 a.m. - 6 p.m., at Forestview Middle School, Riverside and Nisswa Elementary Schools. Please be advised, there is no school scheduled for Friday, April 10 and Monday, April 13, 2020.

I want to again say thank you to our parents and community members for your unending support as we work through these unprecedented and challenging times. The extraordinary work that our staff has completed over the past ten days is truly inspiring and we are ready! Brainerd Public Schools is committed to providing quality education while supporting our students and families. Working together, we will get through this and be able to see our students again... oh, how much we miss them!! Take care of yourself, your children and your loved ones during this time.

Most Sincerely,



Laine D. Larson, Superintendent
Brainerd Public Schools - ISD 181