

Thursday April 2, 2020

Spring Break / School Year

The district is still recognizing the designated Spring Break as time off for both students and faculty. Despite feedback interested in shortening the year, the feeling is that anytime with students that might be possible at the end of the year would be utilized if it is possible. Spring Break will begin on Friday, April 10th through Sunday, April 19th.

There has been no conversation about extending the school year.

Newsletter Reminders

The high school sends a weekly email to students and families every Friday, and the parent/family email is posted to the HS website. The counseling department also sends a weekly email through Naviance. With the increase in emails, I encourage all families to check their SPAM settings and folders regularly just in case.

If you are NOT receiving the weekly Newsletter that comes out each Friday, you can

- 1) Sign Up to receive it go to: https://www.bbhcsc.org/highschool_home.aspx
Scroll down until you see "Sign Up For High School Newsletters"
- 2) Select Click here then follow the instructions

If you are NOT receiving the weekly Counselor Newsletter please contact Kelly Petros at:
petrosk@bbhcsc.org

Status of Prom and Graduation:

We have confirmed a back up date for Prom with the Cleveland Browns Stadium if needed. That date is Saturday, June 6th. After-Prom at Fun-n-Stuff has also confirmed this as our back-up date.

We **do not** have a signed contract with the Playhouse for our back up graduation date, but looking at June 13th at 1pm, if possible. If we cannot get that date agreed to with the Playhouse, we will look at alternative locations at the high school. First choice would be our football stadium. Second choice would be our high school gymnasium. There is not enough seating in the auditorium for that to be a viable option. The stadium option is weather dependent.

Senior Internships:

Internships will still be encouraged for seniors. They may have to be delayed a bit to summer since many companies are not operating with full staff but we hope that internships can be provided by early summer.

Parent Submitted Questions and Answers:

Question: AP exams - can our students opt out of taking the AP Exams since the format has changed so extensively? If so, how would they get a refund for the tests that have been paid for?

Answer: We are not going to require students to take the exam. We will let the student make the decision. We will still honor the weighted credit for the course. The administration will work on refunds for the exam for students who do not wish to take the exam. The College Board did a great job with on-line test prep and preparing a test that will only cover the materials that should have been covered to March 1st. It is a shortened test. We encourage students to take the test and to use the on-line YouTube videos and other materials prepared by College Board to help with the exam. Higher Ed. has agreed to give the same credit for the test as it normally would.

Question: How will finals be handled for the 4th quarter?

Answer: There has been no decision at this point about finals.

Question: Will there be refunds for spring sports?

Answer: We are waiting for the OHSAA to officially cancel the spring sports season. Once that happens the administration will be working with the Bd. of Ed. to address these refunds. Mr. Ast cannot say how fast that can happen since the administration is working remotely during the shut down.

Question: Is there a possibility the Band can go to Disney next school year?

Answer: The Band will not be able to go to Disney next school year because of the switching off of travel years with the Orchestra and Choir. The Band will go to Disney in 2022. We realize this affects our Seniors and our Juniors and that is very unfortunate.

Question: Will senior awards night happen? If not, will there be any recognition for the students who would have received an award?

Answer: After talking with the Counseling Team, and in consideration of the financial planning that parents need to make, Mr. Ast said they will release the winners close to when they have them. So the back-up plan is going to be a recorded slideshow, highlighting winners and background on awards.

Question: What about Senior Banners?

Answer: Mr. Ast will look into that and let us know.

Question: This is not a criticism at all of the teachers: it seems like there is very little “teaching” going on. The students are just being given work to do and then are expected to figure it out on their own. There also seems to be a lot of “sharing” of work. How will this be addressed in both their grades and then next year as they continue forward? Will there be significant review in subsequent classes, as many build upon each other? Appreciative and understand the teachers are doing the best they can given the situation but concerned about gaps in knowledge.

Answer: Mr. Ast and the Department Chairs are meeting to discuss how to best prepare the students with on-line learning. We are looking at several ideas and support to help the teachers to better be able to teach on-line. We are looking at how we could possibly have 5 quarters of learning in 4 quarters next year so that we can try and fill in some gaps. We are providing teachers with additional resources and teaching tools to better serve the students on-line. Scott Kinkoff has been a great help working with the teachers to improve their use of Zoom and other on-line learning tools. Teachers are also doing professional development to obtain better skills for on-line learning techniques. Mr. Ast appreciates feedback from parents as this helps them fill in the gaps where needed. We have not required class Zoom meetings at specific times because each family has different dynamics going on during the day and not all families have internet access.

Mr. Ast said that the Department Chairs are also working with teachers to make sure that all homework is consistent in the same place for students to find. This should only be Google Classroom or Progress Book. Teachers should not be emailing assignments to students. Zoom meetings will be coordinated so they don't overlap other classes.

Parents need an access code from the teacher to access Google Classroom as a parent to view your student's assignments and what's missing and completed.

Labs will most likely not happen in the 4th quarter for science classes. There is not a feasible way to make that happen. Mr. Ast will discuss with Department Chairs the possibility of a virtual lab presentation by the teacher.

Question: Will grades be pass fail for the semester? Will students get to choose which are and which are not (could hurt those with an A in a 5.0 class). Would ccp classes be pass fail? What would be the criteria for passing? This may encourage students to do the bare minimum of work.

Answer: Dr. Martin and the Principals are meeting tomorrow (4/3) to decide on whether or not the 4th quarter should be pass/fail or grade based. Mr. Ast is leaning toward grade based after doing a lot of research on the positives and negatives of both. The main point Mr. Ast is making to the teachers is to be flexible and lenient. Each students situation is different.

Question: What is the status on refunds for the Disney trip? Spring Musical?

Answer: Refunds will be issued once the district is back to full functionality. Currently the only essential payments are being processed. Remember, the treasury staff is working from home.

Question: My child is at the MS. The assignments there are being given for a full week. Each class has a day they assign work. (e.g. Class1 assignments posted on Monday is due following Monday, Class2 assignments posted on Tuesday are due following Tuesday, etc) Can the HS do something like that so the students have flexibility getting work done. Some students have limited access to computers or may be caring for siblings on any given day.

Answer: Mr Ast is meeting with Department heads and will share this approach. They will discuss if this is a model that can be used at the HS.

Note: Teachers will exercise **flexibility** and **leniency** during the ordered school closure period and will evaluate high school student progress as best as practicable. Students are encouraged to approach assignments and schoolwork with the same tenacity and dedication at home as they would in the building.

Question: Is there any discussion on how classes with a lab component will be handled?

Answer: Teachers have limited to no access to the building and their classroom lab supplies but are starting to explore virtual lab options. Art teachers are looking for ways to distribute classroom art supplies to students so they can continue to work at home. Students will hear from their teacher if this is possible.

Question: How are summative grades going to be handled? Virtual testing?

Answer: Classes are taking a variety of approaches knowing that it's difficult to ensure that students are not using other tools to answer the questions they would not have access to in a classroom setting. Some are asking parents to proctor a test, some will be using Edulastic to help monitor the time it takes for the test, and some are shifting to projects so students can show concept mastery.