

Kimberly Carter

Superintendent
Battle Creek Public Schools
kcarter@battlecreekpublicschools.org
269.965.9465



Dear BCPS Families,

In this time of COVID-19, nearly every student and educator in the nation is being faced with unforeseen challenges. But at BCPS, this time of uncertainty has let our true colors show. **Our students are strong and resilient, our educators are some of the best in the nation, and our community has rallied around us. We know we will get through this together.**

This week marks the official launch of the Battle Creek Public Schools At-Home Learning Plan to help students continue to learn and stay connected during school closure. I know many of you have questions about what the rest of the school year will look like for your student. We hear you, and we are here to support you.

Here's what to expect for your student:

AT-HOME LEARNING

Our plan is designed to make sure that students have assignments to work on and learn from and that the relationships between students and their teachers and other staff mentors stay strong. You should receive a call from your child's teacher or another staff member one to two times per week to assign work, review progress, hear how things are going and check in on their wellbeing.

Work for grades Pre-K–5 will center on paper packets, which you should receive in the mail. You should have received the first packet at home during the week of April 13, and should receive the second packet early in the week of April 27. If you did not receive the first packet or have not yet heard from your child's teacher, please take a moment to update your family's address or phone number at battlecreekpublicschools.org/learningathome. If you have not received a phone call by April 24, please contact your school principal.

Teachers will be assigning at least one assignment in math and English language arts from the packet each week, but families should feel free to do more when they can. Elementary teachers may provide additional online activities to supplement packet work, using Google Classroom, Clever, or Seesaw. Instructions for accessing these platforms can be found on battlecreekpublicschools.org/learningathome. If you have trouble logging on to any of the online resources your teacher has asked you to use, please contact helpdesk@battle-creek.k12.mi.us.

To assist with online work, we distributed Chromebook laptops to families who do not have a computer at home. If you do not have a computer and were unable to pick up a device during scheduled pickup times, please contact us at (269) 245-6129. If you do not have Wi-Fi at home, you may be able to receive it for free from Comcast or AT&T. If internet connection is not available in your area, please let us know and we may be able to provide assistance.

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MEALS

With the understanding that school breakfasts and lunches are very important sources of nutrition for many of our families, we will continue offering meal pick-ups through the end of May. For a full list of location and pickup times, please visit battlecreekpublicschools.org/news.

MEASURING PROGRESS

Above all, we want to create space for the many needs and stressors that students and families are experiencing during this time. We recognize that during a global pandemic, grades and academics cannot be a priority for every student. We understand that even though we will all do our best, many students will not be able to complete all of the work assigned during this time. We will have a plan in place to help every student catch up and get back into learning successfully when we return in the fall.

All students will continue receiving assignments and receiving feedback on their work and progress, but students will not receive report card grades for work assigned during school closure. End of year report cards will inform families of student progress in core areas, based on progress from before March 11 when schools closed. Report cards will follow our current practice of listing progress in grade-level terms (AP – approaching grade level, AT – at grade level, AB – above grade level, AC – demonstrating an area of concern). As stated in the Governor's executive order, the third grade reading law has been postponed and all students will be promoted to the next grade.

WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU

We are here to answer all of your questions to the best of our ability. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us:

- For technology support, please contact helpdesk@battle-creek.k12.mi.us.
- For support with accessing devices, meal pickups or for other family needs please contact (269) 245-6129.
- For Spanish language support, please call (269) 419-1978. For Burmese language support, please call (269) 601-6029.

Thank you all for your strength and leadership, and for staying home and staying safe. Please remember that BCPS is here to support you! We believe in BCPS and we believe in Battle Creek.

Stay well,
Kimberly Carter
BCPS Superintendent