



Bedford Central School District
Inspiring and Challenging Our Students



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April 1, 2020

Dear Families,

It is my sincere hope that you and your entire family are healthy and safe. I know this is a period of uncertainty and immense challenges for all of us. In the midst of managing the demands of your work and the needs of your family, you now find yourself navigating the world of distance learning. Our goal is to provide continuous opportunities to engage, support and educate your child, however, we understand that this will happen at their individual pace.

In order to provide continuity of instruction during the period of the school closing, the Bedford Central School District has developed a Distance Learning Plan. It includes the use of video and group teleconferencing technology, to provide special education and related services, to the extent possible during this emergency. Some of these services will be provided in a small group setting just as they would be when school is in session. The use of on-line video technology to provide small group instruction could result in parents or others in a household seeing other students receiving their group instruction. We want to support the confidentiality of our students while supporting their learning. Please remember that no personal information should be disclosed or recorded. In the spirit of collaboration, please make every effort to ensure that sessions take place in a private area of your home and that you minimize the extent that others in your household can view the lesson.

The district remains committed to providing parents a meaningful opportunity to communicate their concerns and to participate in the implementation of your child's IEP. If you have questions about your child's participation in virtual learning activities, please contact the special education coordinator assigned to your school.

As noted in the recent update, our Special Education teachers are working in conjunction with classroom teachers to provide specialized instruction to meet the individual needs of our students. Each of our providers will continue to implement each child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) to the greatest extent possible during this time. They continue to maintain their websites and classroom resources to support on-going specialized instruction. They are providing indirect, direct, and individualized support. During the



school closure, we are doing our best to balance the number of communications you receive. As students and teachers settle into a daily routine, we will continue to partner with you in the development of a plan that best supports your individual child's needs at this time.

In addition, the Related Service Providers (physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and counseling) have provided activities and learning opportunities through their websites and classroom resources, and through their partnerships with teachers. They are providing indirect, direct, and individualized support. Activities may include differentiated instructional activities and resources to support individual IEP goals.

As noted, the Special Education Department will continue to hold annual review meetings. We are working in collaboration with families to schedule or reschedule meetings. Meetings are being conducted via teleconference. Families will be contacted with specific dial-in information.

Students whose process requires initial evaluation or re-evaluation via face-to-face assessment or classroom observation will be delayed until school reopens.

If you have any additional questions please feel free to email me at dormady0319@bcsdny.org and we can make arrangements to speak.

Stay safe!

Sincerely,

Deborah Dormady
Director of Special Education

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