March 16, 2020

Parents and Students,

On Wednesday we plan to begin online learning (remote instruction). Most students have been issued a laptop, and has been trained in how to use google meets, the platform we will use for direct instruction.  If your student did not receive a laptop and are not using their own, please contact the high school office. From there, teachers will have specific instructions and expectations about how to demonstrate proficiency and understanding.

Regardless of what the state may mandate during this situation when it comes to hours needed, credits earned and accreditation standards, Bigfork Schools has a responsibility to ensure students have successfully completed current grade level content in order to be successful at the next grade level.

We will put forward our best effort knowing that this is new to all of us to prepare ourselves to teach kids to the greatest extent possible.  Spring break will commence as planned starting on the 21st and going through the 29th.

After spring break we expect more clarity as to how long we will be out.  At that time student’s will log in Monday-Thursday to their regularly scheduled course, including electives and aiding periods. Friday will be reserved for teacher planning and as a student assessment/work day. Students will not follow the daily schedules on Friday, but instead work on their classwork independently.

This is our opportunity to continue to teach and learn in lieu of having to have summer school. It is very important that we are made aware as soon as possible about issues surrounding virtual learning (trouble signing on, internet connectivity, or other issues) so that we can work together to fix the problem.

Students will run through their regular scheduled classes following the regular bell schedule.  Each teacher will have specific plans and expectations that will be outlined to the students during classes using google meets.

Log in to <https://www.bigforkschools.org/remote-instruction/>

Click on high school

Click on the teacher of the class you are attending

Turn off mic and camera

Pin teacher

Open chat window

Students will follow their regular schedule:

Regular Bell Schedule Middle School

1st 8:05-8:56

2nd 9:06-10:01

3rd 10:05-10:56

4th 11:00-11:51

Lunch 12:51-12:25

5th 12:25-1:18

6th 1:22-2:14

7th 2:18-3:10

If a student is an aide, they should check in with their teacher at the beginning of class for attendance purposes.

If you child is sick, and unable to attend classes please let us know through the regular process so that we can track attendance.

Some notes on technology:

Please check your device over carefully at let Ms. Varner (svarner@bigfork.k12.mt.us) know through email if things are not right. She will be able to set up a device swap.

Our tech department will update the Chromebooks so that on Wednesday morning, they will open to:

* School Remote Education Page
* A FAQ page for how to get online / any desired HS or MS guidance.

The bandwidth required for Google Meet is extremely low.  With audio and video both, it will use less than 1 hour of Netflix on standard resolution for an entire day of school.  Students who opt to turn off their cameras will use even less. Lastly, for those extremely limited, they can use the call in option via their phone.

Chromebooks will work offline if they are periodically connected to WIFI (one could pull into the school parking lot and log on.) to download lessons and then watch once at home.

The Chromebooks are Firewalled to our educational restrictions.  You can rest assured that we are very serious and quite careful about what can be seen by students. We can also track what students search, what they send in emails to each other, their chats on google docs or google meets, etc.  If you are not using our technology, in order to be in the google classroom and google meets you must sign in to your BFSD account, which does not limit what students can view, but does allow us to track it.

Notes

\*All MHSA sanctioned events are postponed at this time.

\*We are working on a plan to be able to get food, books, and other items to students. More about that soon.

\*Mrs. Munson will be opening office hours for those students in need of counseling during the day.  CSCT is working on being up and running after Spring Break as well. More on that later.

Thank you for your understanding during this time. Our amazing staff is available to support students and parents with any of their question or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mark L. Hansen

Principal

Bigfork High School