

Update to BCCS Community as of Monday, 3/16/20

Dear BCCS Families and Students,

We hope you are staying safe at home. Our hearts and minds are with you and your children. There is much information below, but here's the headline: **please do not hesitate to reach out if the BCCS community can be helpful in any way to you or your child.** We are 123 people sitting at home sad that we can't be in school with the kids, and we want to help.

You surely heard that the Governor has closed all schools through April 6th. BCCS will obviously be adhering to this timeline. The Boston Public Schools will be re-opening on April 27th. Because we get our buses through Boston Public Schools, BCCS is likely to be closed for this six-week time period as well, though we haven't determined it for certain and are exploring options to return to school sooner if at all possible and prudent.

We've created a new COVID-19 Response section of the BCCS website (www.boston.collegiate.org) where you can find updated information, including ongoing instructional information.

Learning This Week

The most important thing you can do is keep reading! As a reminder, we envision:

Grades 5/6 : spending a minimum of 1.5 hours a day of reading, journaling, and/or skill work

Grades 7 - 12 : spending a minimum of 2 hours a day of reading, journaling, and/or skill work

Here are some links to start learning remotely. Our website will be updated weekly with learning links that students can use to stay engaged.

5th - 12th Grade History:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Rr1go3pThYwEEjL35sBDonzowJtZaN69KUpwWuWajM/edit?usp=sharing>

5th - 12th Grade English Language Arts:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wCAsE-C3SQCuilel0qkyNy1KLzq4Xhg5nwx2W1LT3A/edit?usp=sharing>

5th-12th Grade Math:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1udELEaTZVgCjzU-Ff1Ao5pTjjo46U7uE7zvHIsbmHjk/edit?usp=sharing>

5th -12th Grade Science:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OQW2KSONASXkVDbRld96MpNxSHBe7sjUguSe1IGbQPE/edit?usp=sharing>

9th-12th Grade World Language:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1luPiZP64FIEs9C5ofjq9CchNQ8zc970kH2qmatPD5M/edit?usp=sharing>

Also, any student who was failing in the most recent grade report will be getting personal outreach from their teachers. The spirit of this will be not only instructional, but supportive.

We will be providing more information on Fridays (not Thursdays) in a Weekly Newsletter.

We recently learned about a webinar (Tuesday, 3/17 at 7 pm) as resource for families who are facilitating learning at home (we can't vouch for it, but it seems promising):

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/free-webinar-learning-at-home-during-covid-19-registration-99706073550>

If you are a student who took a BCCS Chromebook home and your technology breaks, please reach out to Amanda Kay Loring at aloring@bostoncollegiate.org and we will work with you on fixing it or getting new technology.

Supporting Students This Week

As information is shared about COVID-19 and also as students deal with the uncertainty and lack of structure right now, many BCCS students and families may have begun experiencing some level of anxiety. We are committed to ensuring that our families have as much information as we can possibly provide during this time. Below, please find information that you may find helpful if you or a family member is experiencing high level anxiety and/or at risk of self harm. Please click [here](#) to access the pertinent information.

Accessing Teachers & School Staff

Teachers are responding to emails regularly-- feel free to reach out to them! Teachers also have their office lines forwarding to their cell phones, and can receive voicemail messages as emails. So, please do not hesitate to call your teachers; you can find their office phone numbers on our website: <https://www.bostoncollegiate.org/faculty-staff/>. We are currently compiling teacher's office hours. Each teacher will have three hours a day during which they can be reached by students to connect about instruction and to just check-in. We will share out office hours in our Friday communication.

Our Operations staff members will be watching general voicemail phone messages each day between 8:00-3:00pm. If you have a general question or need a redirection from the "Main Office", please leave a quick message with your Name, Preferred Phone Number, and Question, and your call will be returned shortly.

Accessing Food

Meals are available at 11 Mayhew Street from 10 am - 12 pm at BCCS every day.

Meals are also available at many other sites across the city for any person under the age of 18; sites are available here: <https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/Page/8098>. The City will be providing more details about meal pick up in the coming days, by Wednesday we have been told that there will be 80 sites across the city that will be available, including 14 charter locations, including BCCS' Mayhew Street location.

A Dorchester-based organization that has supported food bags for our families has asked people to donate to support more food to families (100% of donated funds are going to food; they are all volunteer run). Learn more here: <http://greaterashmont.org/donate>. Further, people who want to volunteer with them can sign-up [here](#).

Babysitting Resources/Resources for All Ages

We know that many students are now being tasked with watching younger siblings or cousins so that parents and guardians can work. We are compiling resources for babysitting and engaging young children of all ages and will share these with you. To get started, please see the [COVID-19 Response](#) page of our website.

How Are You Staying Safe and Continuing to Learn During the School Closure?

We want to know how you are staying safe and continuing to engage in learning from home. Send us your photos to development@bostoncollegiate.org OR tag us on Facebook (@bostoncollegiatecharterschool) and/or Instagram (@bostoncollegiatecharterschool). We'll be posting daily and look forward to staying connected with you!

We'll be in touch with more information, and learning plans for the next week, on Friday, March 20th.

We love you, BCCS Community. Stay safe.

Warmly,
Shannah Varón

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