

Oxbow Unified Union School District

Bradford Elementary 802-222-4077
143 Fairground Road, Bradford VT 05033

Newbury Elementary 802-866-5621
214 Pulaski Street, Newbury VT 05051

Oxbow High School 802-222-5214
36 Oxbow Drive, Bradford VT 05033

River Bend Career & Tech Center 802-222-5212
36 Oxbow Drive, Bradford VT 05033

April 12, 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers:

I hope everyone is safe and well. At BES, we continue to work to adjust to the changing conditions, and do everything we can to support our students and their families. This email is intended to update you on the next stage of remote learning, which will likely last for the remainder of the academic year. I hope the information below provides you with some answers to your questions and the reassurance that we will work with you to create a plan that works for you, your family, and your child. We are here to support you.

Focusing on Health, Family, and Experiential Learning

At BES, our approach to remote learning is to be adaptable enough to fit your family's needs and expectations. As a school, we honor that your family will have its own unique ways of keeping your children intellectually, physically, and emotionally engaged during this time. The instruction we will provide focuses on the key concepts of your child's grade level. We encourage you to continue to put your family's needs and healthy connections with loved ones ahead of academic learning. Please discuss this with your child's teacher, so that we can individualize your child's learning to fit the conditions in your family.

The learning that will happen at home this spring cannot and should not recreate school. We do not expect parents to have the time or technical expertise to carry out school-level instruction, and we know that many parents will be busy working their own jobs or taking care of siblings or other family members. We are already planning for how we will meet each child where she/he is next fall, knowing that it is unreasonable to expect students to academically progress as they would in a typical school environment. We invite you to join us in looking for ways to connect learning to every day family life, and to emphasize active, experiential, and outdoor learning. This is a perfect time to step outside the box of the traditional schoolhouse: for children to explore the outdoors, to get caught up in a book of their own choosing, to help you with the animals, or to talk with you about their learning while getting ready for dinner.

Academic Progress and Grades

Work that is completed remotely will not be graded; instead, teachers will focus on providing meaningful feedback to help students move forward. Work will be accepted at any time, with no penalty for late or missing work. Trimester 3 Report Cards will be narrative only, no grades. Please communicate your expectations about your child's learning to your child's teacher, so that we can provide supports and activities that are in line with your hopes and intentions.

Specifics on the BES Remote Learning Plan

Each classroom teacher will use the [BES Remote Learning Site](#) to post a Weekly Overview of learning intentions and activities. This will be available by Monday morning at 8:30 am. The Weekly Overview serves as a menu of activities for students to complete on their own time, at their own pace. Each class will provide 1-2 morning meetings per week, which is an opportunity for students to socialize with their teachers and their peers, and check in on how everyone is doing. For families who are unable to access the internet, we will be in touch with you to provide alternative learning activities, as well as options for your child to check in with his/her teaching team.

The Vermont Agency of Education recommends the following as the minimum/maximum times of total daily academic learning per grade level:

- K: 30-90 min/day
- 1-2: 45-90 min/day
- 3-5: 60-120 min/day
- 6: 90-180 min/day

In addition, we encourage students and families to participate in the specials that will be included in your Weekly Overview. Students should take frequent movement breaks and engage with activities including art, PE, music, and guidance. Our expectation is that students will participate in classroom work each day, in some form. This could be

participating in a live video conference, connecting with one of your teachers by phone or email, submitting work, or logging time on a classroom platform that your teacher has approved. You will hear more from your child's teachers about expectations for communication and learning that are specific to your child's grade level. I encourage you to talk with your child's teaching team to create a plan that works for your child, whether it is one activity per day, or a more extensive academic program. You are welcome to ask any questions or share any needs that you have so that your child's teachers can support you as well as your child.

BES Contact Call

A member of your child's teaching team will be contacting you over the next few days to review this email and to check in with your family and your child's needs. He/she will review with you:

- Specific information about your child's class and the Weekly Overview
- The frequency of contact you desire with your child's classroom teacher(s) or BES Contact (every day, # days/week)
- Your current technology resources, to make sure they are adequate for ongoing remote learning
- Your expectations, hopes, and needs for your child's remote learning plan.

Spring Break and the School Calendar

Spring Break will take place as scheduled, from April 17th - 24th. During this time, no class assignments or work will be due, nor will teachers be contacting students, families, or holding office hours. We encourage off-screen activities, and invite teachers, staff, parents, and students to take a much-needed break.

This spring will bring new opportunities, challenges, and experiences for all of us. Success depends on our ability to take a day at a time, to communicate directly and regularly with each other, to demonstrate patience, kindness, and respect in the face of challenges, and to have faith in our common goal to support your children, their wellness, and their growth as best we can.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions.

Respectfully,



Kate K. Paxton, Ph.D.
Principal