

Dear Bel Air families,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and in good health. First, I want to make sure you know that we are thinking of you. I would like to also share well wishes from the entire Bel Air staff. We miss you and we look forward to connecting with each of our students soon. The Bel Air learning community is strong, and I am optimistic that our ongoing partnership will help to ensure that our students and families get what they need during this unprecedented time. The support we have received from Bel Air families, thus far, has been amazing!

As you know, Minnesota schools will remain closed during the week of March 23-27. This week, Bel Air teachers will begin the process of planning and preparing for a period of distance learning for our students. Please note that Bel Air staff will be working remotely during this period of school closure. Please use email as the most efficient way to communicate with staff. As the week progresses, please look for more information to be communicated about what distance learning will look for our students.

Distribution information

To assist our students and families, we will be preparing student materials for distance learning. This week, Bel Air staff will be working (safely) to remove students' belongings from their desks and classroom storage spaces. Materials will be placed in a bag, and each bag will be prepared to be picked up at school. Additionally, a Chromebook will be included in each child's bag, grades 1-5. This Chromebook and other school-owned materials will be collected when school resumes.

To maintain a safe environment for the members of our staff and school community, the pick-up of materials will be done in a drive-up format. Families and students will not have access to the inside of the school building. Families will remain in their vehicle, and a staff person will come out to assist you.

We strongly encourage all families to come to school to pick-up their child's bag. At this time, families will also be able to pick-up their child's musical instrument and medication.

If your student has medication in our health office, we will be returning the medication during our distribution process. If you have specific questions about your student's medications, please contact our Licensed School Nurse, Kathy Knutson, at kathy.knutson@moundsvIEWSchools.org or 651-248-0204.

We are planning to run the distribution timeline below. If a lack of transportation prohibits your ability to come to school, please notify the Bel Air office at 651-621-6300.

Wednesday, March 25	7:00 am - 6:00pm
Thursday, March 26	7:00 am - 6:00 pm
Friday, March 27	8:30 am - 12:00 pm

Families will be asked to form a single file car line, similar to our drop-off and pick-up lines. Bel Air staff members will be meeting cars at door 11. Once families have received their bag(s) of materials, families will exit the parking lot. We appreciate your patience and adherence to these directions. **The safety of students, families, and staff remains our top priority.**

Special Education

For those who have students on IEPs, case managers will reach out to you this week to collaborate on how to best support your student during this unique time.

Meals

Starting Monday, March 23, meals will be available for any child under 18 years of age who needs breakfast or lunch during this period of school closure. **Meals will be distributed curbside at the main entrances of Pinewood Elementary, Snail Lake Education Center, Highview Middle School, and Edgewood Middle School between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. daily.** Times and locations will be reviewed based on student need. Parents/guardians are asked to accompany their child(ren) to pick-up a grab-and-go lunch and breakfast bag for the following morning. If there are any barriers that prevent you from picking up a meal at one of these locations, please complete this [form](#).

Speaking with children about COVID-19

Many adults are working to manage their own feelings related to the coronavirus pandemic. Our minds are heavy with the uncertainty that has become our new normal. In some cases, these thoughts and feelings also live in the minds of our children. Constant media reports, social media, and adult conversation may have children more anxious or concerned than ever. As a resource, parents may want to visit [nasponline.org](https://www.nasponline.org). This online resource from the National Association of School Psychologists may be a helpful tool to guide conversations with your children.

Bel Air news and notes...

- Unfortunately, the **Bel Air Carnival** has been canceled both due to construction and our current situation. While I am saddened that we need to cancel this event, I am extremely grateful for the work of our amazing PTA and parent volunteers!
- The Bel Air **yearbook** is still in the process of going to print, and we will continue to work with our yearbook supplier. There will be more information to come in this area.
- Finally, **all** Bel Air school-based activities have been postponed until further notice. As more information becomes available in the coming weeks, I will be sure to use our communication tools to keep families informed.

In closing, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation for the partnership that exists between our school and families. Distance learning will be new for our teachers, and I am expecting it will be new for most of our students and their families, as well. As we move forward together, please know that we are dedicated to working to meet the needs of our students, both academically and emotionally during our time apart. Our staff will miss our students dearly. Please know that even though we will be apart, we are here for you and will do whatever we can to keep the lines of communication open on behalf of the children we serve. Please continue to use our school's website, email, and social media tools to stay informed and connected to our school. Additional communication will be sent to families next week with more information about what distance learning will look like with elementary age students. Until then, stay healthy and be safe.

Kind regards,

Dawn Wiegand

Principal

dawn.wiegand@moundsvIEWSchools.org

651-621-6303