

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

A resource guide to navigate during the Covid-19 closure

(This will be updated as needed. **Drafted 3/14/2020**)

The next four weeks are going to be a challenge for everyone - for health officials, healthcare providers, parents, grandparents, employers, students, school staff members and the community, alike. The current health pandemic is impacting everyone. I appreciate everyone pulling together and working together. There are times like these when we see the strength in unity. Thank you for your patience and understanding – and, above all, for your concern and compassion for your friends, family, neighbors and community.

OFFICE PHONE NUMBERS:

Bellmont Elementary	723-3137
Bellmont Middle School	724-3137
Bellmont High School	724-7121
Administration Office	724-7146

THE CURRENT SCHEDULE FOR STUDENTS:

Monday, March 16, 2020	No school (no eLearning)
Tuesday, March 17, 2020	Elearning for all students
Wednesday, March 18, 2020	Elearning for all students
Thursday, March 19, 2020	Elearning for all students
Friday, March 20, 2020	No School (no eLearning)

Spring break is Monday, March 23, 2020 – Friday, March 27, 2020. There is no school and no elearning that week.

FAQs:

1: If families do not have access to the Internet, will they be allowed to go to school to work on eLearning assignments?

To ensure the health and safety of our staff and students, students will not be permitted to come in to the school to use the Internet. Currently, our team is working to relocate some access points to the outside edge of the building. This will permit students or parents to drive to the school parking lot and connect to the WIFI from the parking lot. Material can be downloaded and the student can then work on the material at home. The actual location of these points will be shared when the access points are set up. There will also be locations throughout the community and we will create a list to share as quickly as possible.

2: Since Gov. Holcomb gave a 20-day waiver, will we still be doing the eLearning?

At this time, we are planning to use a combination of both Waiver Days and eLearning Days. The exact schedule will be determined by the North Adams administration team over the next couple of days. The schedule will be shared with all parents when it has been established.

3: Will teachers be available only during the day or in the evening when parents get home from work, too?

We encourage you to check with your child's teacher on their availability. Students and/or their parents may contact their teachers through school email, CANVAS messenger, or classroom extension during times when staff are at work. If you need assistance connecting with a teacher contact the building office.

3: What do we do if we need assistance with the technology?

Call your schools office and they will connect you with the technology staff. Telephone numbers to the buildings are posted at the top of this FAQ.

4: Are all events canceled?

Yes, all practices, extra-curricular events, co-curricular events and community events schedule to take place on school property are canceled through Sunday, April 12, 2020.

5: What will happen to events scheduled after April 13, 2020?

That is an unknown at this time. Just as we have been monitoring the current state of health information, we will continue to do so over the next 4 weeks. We will continue to evaluate the status and provide updates as information is available.

6: My child was absent on Friday and does not have their iPad or laptop?

K-8 students may pick up their device between 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. on Monday, March 16, 2020 in the BES/BMS activities area. Please enter the main office door at the BES/BMS building.

7: My child needs to pick up materials or items from school. What should we do?

Call your child's building office and share your need. Staff will collect the items and schedule a time for you to pick them up in the office.

8: My child and I had a Case Conference scheduled during the time school will be closed. What will happen?

That conference will be held via phone or rescheduled.

9: When will the eLearning assignments be posted and when will they be due?

Assignments will be posted by 9:00 a.m. each morning from March 17-19. Most work from **Week 1** will be due by March 31, 2020. Please refer to individual assignments for specific due dates.

10: What will the schedule look like after Spring Break?

The schedule following Spring Break will be determined by March 20, 2020. Please continue to watch for updates to be posted throughout Week 1.

11: What will happen to the state testing like IREAD 3 and ILEARN?

Currently, those tests have been suspended by the Department of Education [DOE]. The DOE has asked the federal government to cancel all testing for this year, however, at this time, there is no answer.

12: What about SAT and ACT tests?

When we have information from the organizations who oversee those assessments, we will pass that along.

13: Will students have access to school lunches?

Erin Ripley, director of our Food and Nutrition Services Department, and her staff are working on a plan to make lunches available at locations around town. Those details are not complete and not ready to share at this time. We expect a plan may not be ready by Monday, March 16th, however, they are working quickly to finalize a plan and system to provide meals to students during this extended school closure.

As always, we encourage you to continue to check back regularly for updated information. Should you have any questions or concerns, we welcome you to contact our North Adams Community Schools Administration Office at 260-724-7146 during normal business hours.