



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE BOROUGH OF BRENTWOOD

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August 21, 2020

Dear Brentwood Families,

Canvas Update

Our teachers returned to the buildings this week and are excited to begin the 2020-2021 school year. The week of August 24-August 28 will be filled with opportunities for them to upload videos and assignments into Canvas. The administration and the Canvas Mentors are beginning to post resources and videos for our families to learn more about Canvas. On the <https://www.bb-sd.com/> website, there are three rectangular golden buttons located at the top of the page labeled, **STUDENTS** **STAFF** **PARENTS**.

By clicking on the **PARENTS** tab, it will take you to the parent resource page. The second box down is called the *Parents Guide for Canvas*. The first item is the PDF version of a *Parents and Students Guide for Canvas*. The second item is the link to a Canvas video. These resources will provide a general overview to Canvas.

By clicking on the **STUDENTS** tab, it will take you to the student resource page. On the left-hand side of the students' page is a grey box titled *Student Remote Learning Resources*. Click on this button to be transferred to the *Canvas Resources* for students. The other two resources located in the box are the same as the resources located under the **PARENTS** tab. The second box down titled, *Canvas Videos* was created by our Brentwood Canvas Mentors. The first video explains what all students will see when they login to Canvas. The second video explains the layout of the student dashboard. Throughout the school year, additional tutorial videos will be added to the **STUDENTS** and the **PARENTS** tabs on the website.

Students will not be able to access Canvas until August 31, 2020. A parent portal will also be established so parents will be able to pair to their child(ren)'s accounts and view instruction, assignments, assessments, and projects.

Device Update and Brentwood Canvas Online Families

The District purchased devices for **ALL** students K-12. The setback we are experiencing is the delay in delivery due to the devices being sent from another country and are not expected until late October. We will continue to monitor the device shipment. Families that originally chose the full online option to begin the school year will be given a device from preexisting device inventory.

The distribution will occur on Wednesday August 26, Thursday, August 27, and Friday August 28 from 9am-3pm at the PARKSIDE entrance of the Middle High School. A parent must be present to pick up the preordered device. The parent will be required to sign the Acceptable Use Policy. Also, at this time families will be asked whether they have reliable internet service. If families do not have reliable internet service, the district will arrange for a hotspot to be secured.

After the preordered devices are distributed, the remaining devices will be provided to families that selected the Hybrid Option. There will NOT be enough devices to be given to all families at this time. For families that do not have access to a device, the District will provide all assignments and materials required to complete the assignments, as needed. Again, this will be temporary until the district-wide devices arrive. While we are displeased with the delay in receiving devices, we will be delighted when we can say that all our students will have devices and access to the Internet!

Hybrid Option Update

Students are scheduled to return to school on Monday, August 31, 2020. Students with last names beginning with A-L start in-person on Monday, August 31, 2020, and students with the last names beginning with M-Z will start in-person Tuesday, September 1, 2020. Most of the lessons for the first two weeks of school will pertain to accessing Canvas and changes to school rules due to COVID-19. Now that schools have been informed that masks are required with few exceptions, it is strongly recommended that students begin to wear their masks for periods of the day to acclimate to the new normal. In addition, if the temperature is forecasted to be 90 degrees or hotter, school will be canceled for the day for in-person and online students. Make-up days have been built into the school calendar.

Elementary YMCA Child Care

A flyer has been posted to each of the elementary school websites to inform parents about childcare available at the YMCA. We do not charge the YMCA for using our facilities so that they may keep the cost of childcare at a lower cost. Also, families may be eligible for additional financial assistance. The applications are processed by the YMCA.

We are all living in a world of great uncertainty. Our goal remains to be a place of stability even if that means our students can only attend a few days a week in person. Our admin team is constantly monitoring the COVID-19 cases in Brentwood and Allegheny County. We are tracking the COVID-19 matrix established and shared by PDE and will continue to adjust our model to reflect the recommendations outlined in the matrix.

Please continue to reach out to the building principals or teachers to ask follow-up questions. We look forward to starting the 2020-2021 school year with you!

Sincerely,



Amy M. Burch, D.Ed.
Superintendent of the Brentwood Borough School District

