

July 29, 2020

First, thank you for your support of the Baldwyn School District. With circumstances surrounding the current situation, Baldwyn School District has made changes to both the start of school and the calendar for the 2020-2021 school year. The school year will not begin as initially planned. **Students will begin school on Wednesday, August 17, 2020, through the use of paper learning packets until Labor Day.** The school calendar for the 2020-2021 school year is subject to change as the COVID-19 situation evolves.

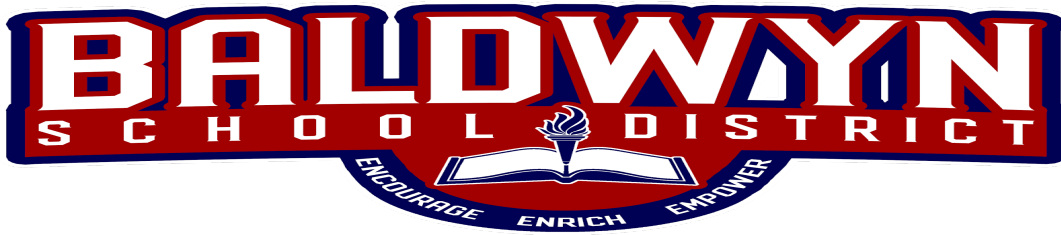
This distance learning period will be significantly different from the 4th nine weeks of the 2019-2020 school year. According to state law, students are required to attend school 180 days out of the year. All students **MUST** complete learning packets and return completed learning packets to school each week in order for attendance to be documented. Teachers will be available during school hours beginning August 17 to provide instructional assistance. The learning packets WILL be graded. State truancy laws WILL be followed. Breakfast and lunch meals will be available, and teachers will be in the schools available to answer questions and prepare instructional resources.

Buses will run routes to deliver breakfast and lunch meals as well as learning packets to students on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays beginning on the 17th and ending the Friday before Labor Day. On Fridays, the district personnel will also collect completed packets to be returned for grading and attendance documentation via the bus routes. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, the buses will undergo the sanitizing process. The learning packets and meals will also be available for pick-up at the schools beginning on August 17, 2020, if you would prefer to pick-up and drop-off packets. More details on pick-up times will be announced soon.

After Labor Day, students will have the option to return to the schools for traditional learning or continue with distance learning. If the traditional learning environment is selected, students can expect to be required to wear masks during times when social distancing is not possible. Classrooms will be sanitized frequently throughout the course of the day as well as at the end of the day. Buses will be sanitized after each route is completed. The traditional learning environment will follow attendance law requirements.

If the virtual/distance learning option is selected, students will be held to the same high expectations for learning and attendance laws set forth by the state. Students will have to log in the Canvas learning management system daily as well as complete all daily assignments for his/her classes in order to be counted as present for the day. If assignments are not completed, the student will be marked absent for the day. School attendance laws will be followed in the virtual classroom as well as the traditional. In both learning environments, student absences will be reported to the truancy officer in accordance with state law.

Student devices (Apple iPads) have been ordered, and the district is currently waiting for the devices to be delivered to the schools. When the devices arrive, appointments will be set up for training and pick-up. Registration forms need to be completed for student records. Devices will only be distributed to those who have completed the student registration paperwork. Please complete if you have not already done so for each student in your family. The link can also be found on the school website and social media pages. <https://forms.gle/hrxiPzjwLJcUok4r6>



Once devices are in use and if a school closure should take place, all learning would immediately transition to virtual learning where students will be required to log into Canvas and complete assignments daily.

This is a trying time for the people of Baldwyn and our country, but I am confident that we **WILL** get through this. While we know this situation will evolve, what will always be consistent will be the heart of the Bearcat. That will carry us through this together and successfully.

Jason McKay,
Superintendent