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BERTHA-HEWITT ISD 786

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Greetings Bertha-Hewitt School Families - The Minnesota Department of Health requires School Districts to put together a plan if 5% of the student population is out of school due to illness. This morning, we had 129 students out; 117 students were reported ill – that correlates to over 24% of our student population out with illness.

The administrative team met this morning, and we are implementing E-Learning Days on Tuesday December 6th and Wednesday December 7th. Below is the policy that has been adopted by the Bertha-Hewitt School Board. In this instance, we are not utilizing E-Learning Days because of weather, but we will follow the same plan. Students in Grades K – 6th will be sent home with homework packets while the 7th – 12th graders will bring home their devices

Because of the widespread illness we have chosen to also close Little Cubs Hangout – we apologize for the inconveniences this creates, but we felt this is in the best interest of our staff, students, and families.

During E-Learning days, activities can continue, but the basketball programs have decided to cancel practice/games until Thursday due to widespread illnesses in their programs. The wrestling program, which is a co-op with Parkers Prairie and Verndale, has made the decision to continue as long as their student athletes remain healthy. Besides 7th – 12th grade wrestling, no other activities should be taking place within the building.

Thank You For Understanding,

Eric Koep

E – Learning Plan

Bertha-Hewitt School is a 1-1 school meaning that all K-12th grade students have their own learning device. With that technology, the School Board is allowing the school to operate E-learning days when inclement weather is forecasted and/or an unusual circumstance arises in the district. When we have weather-related school closures, we know that instructional time is lost. We also know that E-learning cannot replace face-to-face instruction and interactions with teachers and peers; however, the opportunity to have teachers continue their instructional objectives without interruption will allow a more comprehensive, continuous learning experience for all learners - whether in-person, distance, or hybrid learning as their model of choice this year. Below are possible questions and answers that you may have regarding E-Learning Days. If you have further questions, please contact your child's teacher or principal.

What is an E-Learning Day?

An E-Learning Day occurs when, due to inclement weather, students will not report to school and will instead engage in learning activities using digital resources. These E-Learning Days allow for a smooth, continuous flow of instruction.

Why is Bertha-Hewitt utilizing E-Learning Days?

With the Bertha-Hewitt School District now considered a 1-to-1 district, we are able to have the majority of students bring their devices back and forth between school and home. This will allow learning to take place across all grades without the consideration of weather interrupting students' learning. Our primary objective for E-Learning Days is to maintain the momentum of learning.

How and when will students and families know we are having an E-Learning Day?

Just like in the past, weather cancellations and announcements will be communicated through the District notification system. Parents will be notified with JMC alerts and text messages. We will also post the information on the District website, social media, and local TV/radio stations.

How will attendance be taken on an E-Learning Day?

Accountability for students will be managed by teachers. If students log into their classes online platform and complete his/ her work at any time throughout the E-Learning Day, credit for attendance will be granted. Assignments and work expectations for secondary students (grade 7 - 12) on E-Learning Days will be managed the same as our current Distance Learning (Wednesday) model. Elementary teachers will gauge attendance on work returned to school to day following an E-Learning Day.

What if a student doesn't have access to the internet, a device at home, or is unable to complete the work from E-Learning Days?

Students in grades K-6 will receive a packet of relevant work to complete. Students in grades 7th – 12th will bring their device home. We understand that there may be technological reasons that the E-Learning assignments may not get completed. In those instances, teachers will give students adequate time to complete his/ her work upon return to school.

Will the teachers be available on E-Learning Days?

We will be treating E-Learning Days as school days for students and Teachers. Staff members will be working their normal office hours. They will be available from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Will students have to make up E-Learning Days?

No. The intent of the E-Learning Day is to maintain a continuum of learning that will not necessitate the need to designate days on the calendar for snow make-up days or extend the school year.

What if a child is on a 504 or Special Education IEP?

Individual supports, accommodations, and service for students with Individualized Educational Plans are reviewed, discussed, and agreed upon at the student's annual conference. Case managers for those students will serve as conduits for continued instruction on E-Learning Days and facilitate instruction according to those IEP's.