

**BAKERSFIELD ELEMENTARY MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**part of Northern Mountain Valley UUSD**  
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April 9, 2020

Hello BEMS families,

I hope this update letter finds you all healthy and safe. On Monday, April 13, students and teachers at BEMS will transition from “maintenance of learning” to “continuation of learning”. We hope this letter will provide clarification about what that means and what you can expect from distance learning going forward.

We have been working hard to create a plan we feel will be beneficial and manageable for students while trying to prioritize the mental health and stress-management needs of students and families. Please know that in all of this, what is most important to us is that kids are safe, healthy, and know they are loved and cared for by their school community. We will continue to prioritize the social-emotional wellbeing of students above all other things.

This will be a long letter! But please read it all. We have tried to capture a lot of important information regarding what learning will look like for the rest of the school year.

Throughout the coming weeks, teachers will continue to communicate with students in a variety of ways. Your child’s teacher(s) will be checking in via email, video chat, Google Classroom, SeeSaw, and/or phone calls at least once or twice per week. Other teachers and staff may also be reaching out to students they normally work with using the same platforms. In addition to checking-in we will now be providing new learning materials for all students through the above platforms and ways. Each classroom teacher will be giving more detailed specifics to how this will work for each classroom, and what the expectations are. Please be on the lookout for this information with either hard copy learning materials, or online learning platforms.

**Specifics on Time Limits for Distance Learning**

We have set in place the following time guidelines for learning, that do not include independent reading time:

*PK: Maintenance of Learning (engaging, optional activities provided) & Family Support*

*Grades K-2: 60 total required minutes daily (Maximum of 30 minutes **new** learning - focused on reading & math)*

*Grades 3-5: 60 total required minutes daily (Maximum of 45 minutes **new** learning - focused on reading & math)*

*Middle School: 2 hours total required daily for all subjects combined (Maximum of 60 minutes **new** learning)*

Every student is different. Every family has unique situations. Some of you may be hoping to recreate the typical school day at home, while others may find it difficult to find time in the day for your children to engage in learning for the suggested times above. We will work with you to be as flexible as possible during this time!

Teachers and Essentialists may provide additional learning opportunities with which students may choose to engage. Students may also request additional learning resources. The FNESU website also has additional, fun learning opportunities.

### **Supporting Your Child During Distance Learning**

The most important way that you can support your child's learning right now is to help your child communicate questions, needs, and concerns regarding classwork with their teachers.

For younger students, the structure of a daily schedule may be helpful. You can work with your child to create a daily or weekly checklist to help them organize themselves and monitor their own progress.

As stated in our last letter home, if you have any technology questions you are also welcome to contact our I.T. Tech. for BEMS: Marty Cota. He is available via email at [marty.cota@fnesu.org](mailto:marty.cota@fnesu.org). Please leave a phone number and the issue(s) you may be facing and he will get back to you. We also want to remind you that BEMS is providing Free Public WIFI available in the school parking lot during this time. To log in Please choose "BEMS public wifi" then click connect. We hope this will be helpful to our families.

### **Returning Work During Distance Learning**

Students who are engaging with learning materials online can share their work through these means (i.e. Google Classroom, SeeSaw). Students/Parents can also take pictures of student work and send it to teachers. However, we will not be collecting hard copies of work at this time. Please keep a portfolio of your child's work in a folder or one of the plastic bags that we send home. We will be happy to see this work when it is safe to do so. Teachers will be checking in on understandings through phone conversations as well.

## **Grading During Distance Learning**

### **Grades K-5**

All interactions with students will place the well being of the student at the center, and not be conditional on participation in learning opportunities or completion of work.

If students can submit work safely, teachers will assess and provide feedback. Teachers will also check for understanding through conversations with students.

Student work/understanding that is evidence of proficiency or higher on reporting standards will be noted on the report card for Marking Period 4. If evidence does not indicate proficiency, no score will be entered during the Marking Period.

### **Middle School**

All interactions with students will place the well being of the student at the center, and not be conditional on participation in learning opportunities or completion of work.

If students can submit work safely, teachers will assess and provide feedback. Teachers will also check for understanding through conversations with students.

Student work that is evidence of proficiency or higher on reporting standards will be noted on the report card for Marking Period 4. If evidence does not indicate proficiency, no score will be entered during this Marking Period. This includes responsibility for learning.

### ***Online Distance Learning Expectations***

1. Communicate questions, needs, and concerns regarding classwork with your teachers as needed. (This can be done by email, by joining video conferences, during phone check ins, or through other methods.)\* *This is required in order to be considered a participant in remote learning.*
2. Check the Google Classrooms & SeeSaw (or other platforms your teachers use) for your courses as regularly as possible (once a day is recommended) and do all check-ins, if possible.
3. Complete assignments by the due date, unless otherwise arranged with the teacher.

4. Check your email regularly (once a day is recommended), and respond as needed to emails in a timely manner (within 48 hours is recommended).

### ***Hard Copy Distance Learning Expectations***

- Communicate questions, needs, and concerns regarding classwork with your teachers as needed. \* *This is required in order to be considered a “participant in remote learning” in high school.*
- Check in with your teacher at least once a week, if possible.
- Complete assignments and keep them in your distance learning portfolio to return to your teachers when it is safe to do so. If you have arranged another way to get work to your teacher, follow through with that agreement.

### **Responsibility for Learning/Preparedness Rubric**

Proficient	Exemplary
I communicate with my teachers as needed about questions, needs, and concerns regarding classwork.  My work provides evidence of growth.  I consistently meet the <i>Distance Learning Expectations</i> .	My work provides evidence of me meeting learning targets and/or making sufficient progress toward them.  In addition to meeting the Proficiency criteria, I consistently show evidence of learning with components of assignments that are labeled OPTIONAL, and/or submit evidence of my learning for self-designed learning projects.

### **April Break**

There will be an April break for all students and staff during the week of April 20-24. Teachers will not be posting learning activities or scheduling check-ins during the vacation week. All learning and student support check-ins will resume on April 27th.

Delivery of hard copy materials for the week of the 27th will be on the Friday of vacation (April 24th), they will not be expected to start that learning until Monday, April 27th.

**There will continue to be food deliveries to students during the vacation week.**

Wow, I know that was a lot of information all at once. Please feel free to email myself, your child's teacher(s), or Michele Plouff at any time over the coming weeks. We are happy to answer any questions regarding your student's continuum of learning expectations, grades, food delivery, family needs, or anything else you think we can help with. We hope you continue to stay healthy through all of this. Know that your family's health and well being is the most important thing to us! We miss you all very much!!

Sincerely,

Rhoda McLure and the BEMS Teaching Team

**Other useful email addresses:**

**Michele Plouff**, BEMS Administrative Assistant: [michele.plouff@fmesu.org](mailto:michele.plouff@fmesu.org)

**Charlotte Farrell**, BEMS School Counselor: [charlotte.farrell@fnesu.org](mailto:charlotte.farrell@fnesu.org)

**Rhoda McLure**, BEMS Principal: [rhoda.mclure@fnesu.org](mailto:rhoda.mclure@fnesu.org)