

**Booker T. Washington Academy
COVID-19 Update**

March 23, 2020

To: Parents and Guardians

From: Executive Director

Re: COVID Update

I hope this correspondence finds everyone healthy and in a positive state of mind. I pray that all of your loved ones are safe and well cared for. I also hope that everyone is practicing social distancing and doing your part to contain the virus' spread. We are all dealing with something that we could not have imagined only a week ago, but history has proven that there is something about the American spirit in that we pull together in times of crisis. We will get through this crisis too.

Yesterday, Governor Lamont extended the school closure thru April 20, 2020. We were prepared for this, and had initiated the transition from providing students with access to supplemental learning to distance learning. Through distance learning, teachers will provide students engaging instructional resources and tools through a combination of print and digital resources. In planning the instruction, careful consideration has been given to developmental appropriateness of expectations and differing access to online resources.

The **Distance Learning Plan** is as follows:

Grades K-2 will have work packets in the area of reading, writing and math. Parents will be able to access assignments through Google Classroom. Packets will be created of all assignments and distributed to families with pick-up at the Middle School (located at 306 Circular Avenue, Hamden CT 06514) between the hours of: 7am-9am, 11:30am-1:30pm, and 4:00 - 6:00pm. If families are unable to pick up during these hours due to extenuating circumstances, they should call the school to make mutually agreeable arrangements.

Grades 3-6 will have lessons in reading, writing and math, which will be posted daily on Google Classroom accompanied by assignments. A Chromebook loan program has been initiated that will provide technology for every student in grades 3-6. Scholars in grades 4-6 will receive their Chromebooks this week. Scholars in grade 3 will receive their Chromebooks next week. Instructions for accessing the Chromebooks have been shared in another correspondence from school operations to parents of students in the affected grades.

Specials teachers, science, and social studies teachers will post weekly enrichment activities in their classrooms related to their subject area as well.

The general expectation will be that students will participate in approximately 4 hours of instructional activities each day; for a total of 20 hours over the course of a week- divided into the following blocks: 1 hour of reading, 45 minutes of writing, 1 hour of mathematics, 45 minutes of enrichment, 30 minutes of homework, and breaks, as appropriate.

Students may receive instruction through posted readings and PowerPoints, recorded video, and electronic messaging through the Google Classroom. Students can expect teachers to be available online to answer questions and to provide feedback on submitted work daily.

Special Education

Students receiving special education services will be provided appropriate learning activities under the direction of the special education teacher. Delivery of special education modifications and assignments will take place through a combination of Google Classroom and Zoom, as appropriate for each student. When appropriate, related services activities will be provided. Parents will receive assignments either through Google Classroom or if elected via mail.

Parent Expectations

The effectiveness of the Distance Learning Plan will depend greatly upon parent support and engagement, regardless of the age of the students. While parents will not be expected to take the place of the teacher, it is critical that parents consistently remind students that the learning which takes place via a digital or print experience is as important as the learning that takes place in the classroom. It is understood that each family's situation will be unique; however, it is strongly recommended that uninterrupted learning time be provided for each subject even if it occurs at different times throughout the day. Minimally, we are asking that all parents regularly check email, and Google Classroom in order to receive important updates and to assist in holding scholars responsible daily for completing the work provided.

We are committed to finding additional resources so that we can provide support to families as needed. Please reach out to me to let us know if you need additional resources or support. I can be reached at john.taylor@btwanewhaven.org or via phone at 203-691-6535.

Respectfully,

John A. Taylor Jr.
Executive Director
Booker T. Washington Academy