

## Kimberly Carter

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Dear BCPS Families,

In this time of COVID-19, nearly every student and educator in the nation is being faced with unforeseen challenges. But at BCPS, this time of uncertainty has let our true colors show. **Our students are strong and resilient, our educators are some of the best in the nation, and our community has rallied around us. We know we will get through this together.**

This week marks the official launch of the Battle Creek Public Schools At-Home Learning Plan to help students continue to learn and stay connected during school closure. I know many of you have questions about what the rest of the school year will look like for your student. We hear you, and we are here to support you.

Here's what to expect for your student:

### **AT-HOME LEARNING**

Our plan is designed to make sure that students have assignments to work on and learn from and that the relationships between students and their teachers and other staff mentors stay strong. Students and families will receive phone calls from teachers or support staff one to two times per week to assign work, review progress, hear how things are going and check in on families' wellbeing.

All BCCHS work will take place online, using Google Classroom and Clever. Students will receive at least one assignment each week for each course they are enrolled in. Instructions for accessing online learning platforms can be found on [battlecreekpublicschools.org/learningathome](http://battlecreekpublicschools.org/learningathome). If you have trouble logging on to any of the online resources your teacher has asked you to use, please contact [helpdesk@battle-creek.k12.mi.us](mailto:helpdesk@battle-creek.k12.mi.us).

To assist with online work, we distributed Chromebook laptops to families who do not have a computer at home. If you do not have a computer and were unable to pick up a device during scheduled pickup times, please contact us at (269) 245-6129. If you do not have wifi at home, you may be able to receive it for free from Comcast or AT&T. If internet connection is not available in your area, please let us know and we may be able to provide assistance.

### **MEALS**

With the understanding that school breakfasts and lunches are very important sources of nutrition for many of our families, we will continue offering meal pick-ups through the end of May. For a full list of location and pickup times, please visit [battlecreekpublicschools.org/news](http://battlecreekpublicschools.org/news).

### **MEASURING PROGRESS**

There is no perfect solution for how to assign grades during this time. Above all, we want to create space for the many needs and stressors that students and families are experiencing

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during this time. We recognize that during a global pandemic, grades and academics cannot be a priority for every student. When making a decision about how to handle grades, we wanted to come up with a system that would not penalize students who aren't able to complete work at home, or let COVID-19 harm students' grades or future opportunities.

All students will continue receiving assignments and receiving feedback on their work and progress, but students will not receive report card grades for work assigned during school closure. We know that not all students have the things they need to be successful with distance learning; like reliable internet access, places to do online work, or support from a parent who is at home to help out. We also understand that it is difficult — and sometimes impossible — to replicate the level of depth and rigor associated with high school level courses via distance learning, so Battle Creek Central High School students will all receive an A for the time period of work completed during closure. BCCHS students will also have the opportunity to improve on grades for work which took place before March 11. This will ensure that no student's grades or future opportunities (such as eligibility for sports or special programs) are jeopardized because of these circumstances. We know this is not a perfect solution, but it is the best way we see to honor our students' needs and promote our core value of equity.

Coursework from the Battle Creek Area Math & Science Center, the Calhoun Area Career Center and Kellogg Community College will be graded according to the practices of those institutions.

### **WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU**

We are here to answer all of your questions to the best of our ability. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us:

- For technology support, please contact [helpdesk@battle-creek.k12.mi.us](mailto:helpdesk@battle-creek.k12.mi.us).
- For support accessing devices, meal pickups or for other family needs, please contact (269) 245-6129.
- For Spanish language support, please call (269) 419-1978. For Burmese language support, please call (269) 601-6029.

Thank you all for your strength and leadership, and for staying home and staying safe. Please remember that BCPS is here to support you! We believe in BCPS and we believe in Battle Creek.

Stay well,  
Kimberly Carter  
BCPS Superintendent