



# Bethalto Community Unit School District #8

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[www.bethalto.org](http://www.bethalto.org)

**Dr. Jill Griffin, Superintendent of Schools**

**Dr. Barrett Deist**  
*Assistant Superintendent of  
Finance & Operations, CSBO*  
**Dr. Kelly McClain**  
*Director of Curriculum, Instruction,  
& Assessment*  
**Mrs. Jennifer Weber**  
*Coordinator of Special Education*

Good Afternoon EagleNation,

This afternoon, the Governor announced that he will be extending our school closure through April 7th, with schools tentatively set to resume on April 8th. Due to concerns with the rise in COVID-19 cases across the state, our state is now under a "Shelter In Place" order until April 7th. We realize this adds an element of the unknown moving forward, but it is essential that we remain calm and it affirms we must be diligent in our efforts to stay home and practice social distance. During this time we are also learning what this means to us as a school district, just as you are working to understand what that means to you as families. Our district's priorities are to continue to provide food during this time, communicate with our families to keep you updated, and begin to engage your students academically and social-emotionally. We promise to keep you updated and aware of changes as quickly as we can moving forward. While we realize this will continue to impact our families, please know we will continue to support you through these new times.

## **DISTANCE LEARNING:**

We hope each of you understands that our staff has been working hard to prepare activities for what we thought was only a closure through March 30th. As a district, we anticipated that we might have a longer than announced closure and are working with our staff to shift our mindset to one of "e-learning". We will be sharing more information as to how that will look in each building in the coming days. Please have patience with us in the days and weeks ahead, as our staff works diligently to learn new ways to teach your students remotely.

Distance Learning will begin on Monday, March 23rd. You should receive an email, and your child may also receive one to his/her school email address, from your child's teacher(s) with lesson plans **or** activities your child should complete. We have placed Distance Learning Folders for each building on our website at this link:

[https://www.bethalto.org/bcusd8\\_covid-19.html](https://www.bethalto.org/bcusd8_covid-19.html). The plans through March 30th will not be complicated or time intensive. These activities will allow for a continuum of learning to occur during the closure that was originally set to end on March 30th. The goal is to simply keep students engaged in learning during this next week. Due to the announcement that occurred just today, rest assured that our teachers and staff will begin planning for learning that is more related to the curriculum and standards specific to your child.

During the school day, teachers and other staff will be available to answer questions via email from 9am to 2pm, so please have your child reach out if they have any questions regarding any lesson or activity they are completing. You can always find their email address on each school's website at [bethalto.org](http://bethalto.org).

## **BUILDING ACCESS AND ESSENTIAL STAFF:**

District Central Office will be available to answer calls from 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM each day at 618-377-7200. Access to other school facilities is restricted. If you need your child's homework printed because you do not have access to the Internet at home and would like us to provide copies for you please contact the main office and we will be happy to copy those materials for you. Your child's medication, your child's Chromebook (6-12), please contact the Central Office and we will work to get the materials you need. You are also encouraged to reach out to your building administrators via email during this time with questions or feedback. Remember that only information received directly from the Bethalto School District is accurate.

## **MEALS DURING CLOSURE:**

Sack breakfast/lunches will be prepared at no cost during school closure starting on Monday, March 23rd. We will be providing both breakfast and lunch two times a week (Monday and Wednesday) We will provide two days of meals (breakfast and lunch) on Monday and three days of meals (breakfast and lunch) on Wednesday. In addition, the Boys & Girls Club of Bethalto has graciously offered to be an additional pick-up area for our families who indicated they could not make any of the locations above. The Boys & Girls Club will be open from 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM each of these days for pick

up. There will be a table set up in their foyer along with a sign-in sheet. Please sign-in and take your pre-packaged bag of food. If you have questions you can reach out to the Club directly at 618-377-6030 or email Kathy Wilson at [kwilsonbgcb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kwilsonbgcb@sbcglobal.net). They also ask that you "Like" them on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bgcbethaltoLL/>. We truly appreciate their support during this time as we all must come together as a community to support our families in need.

- Storey Manor (Parking Lot): 9:30 AM-10:00 AM
- Enchanted Village (Entrance off Culp Lane): 10:00 AM-10:30 AM
- Lifebrook Church (Parking Lot): 10:45 AM-11:15AM
- Trimpe Middle School (Parent Drop-off Lane): 9:00AM-12:00PM

### **SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SUPPORTS**

These uncertain times can be difficult for both students and adults. District social workers and school psychologists will be distributing information for students. Communication will provide email and contact information for our district employees who will be providing social/emotional support. If immediate help is needed, their contact information can be found on each school website at [bethalto.org](http://bethalto.org).

### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES/SCHOOL EVENTS:**

Please know that all extra-curricular activities and school-sponsored events are suspended until further notice as well. This includes voluntary practices or student-led practices.

### **PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE AND SOCIAL DISTANCING:**

While school is closed, everyone is encouraged to continue practicing good hygiene:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Limit interaction with large crowds and maintain a distance of at least 3-to-6-feet between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Throw away your used tissues immediately and wash your hands.
- If you have a fever, cough, and breathing difficulties, stay home and seek medical attention early by calling your medical provider.
- Stay informed and follow the advice given by your healthcare provider.

We also recommend the guidelines in this handout: [Guidelines to Decrease the Spread of Coronavirus](#).

The COVID-19 pandemic has and continues to impact how we educate our students. While the situation is not ideal, we are focused on ensuring students receive proper nutrition, regular communication is provided to families, and students remain engaged during the state-mandated closures. The health and safety of our students, staff, and community remain our main focus.

If you have any questions or need anything during this time, please don't hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Jill Griffin, Ed.D  
Superintendent