March 20, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Belle Vernon Area School District continues to monitor the coronavirus (COVID-19) closely and are having regular updates from the PA Department of Education and the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit. All school districts are in a quandary over how to provide educational services to students if the closure of schools is extended beyond Friday, March 27, 2020. The difficulty for schools is providing a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) for every child in the district.

My administrative team has spent the week designing an educational plan to begin providing instruction to students on Monday, March 30, 2020 if school closures are continued. We will be providing a hybrid approach of online learning and packet work. If you have not completed the technology survey, I would greatly appreciate it if you would take the time to go to our website and complete this survey. We are encouraging parents that do not have access to internet to consider signing up, if it applies to your location, for service at no cost or low cost right now. The link for information is, https://www.internetessentials.com/

The administration will be sending out more specific information as we get closer to Monday, March 30th or if our plans are forced to change based on a different mandate from the PA Department of Education.

I truly appreciate everyone’s patience with this situation. I have been in education for over twenty-five years and I have never encountered a more frustrating and uncharted situation. Our number one goal is always the health and safety of students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michele Dowell
Superintendent