March 13, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Belle Vernon Area School District is continuing to monitor the latest updates regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) from the PA Department of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The district has reviewed its comprehensive Pandemic Preparedness Plan which has been enacted.

Although there are currently no confirmed cases in Western Pennsylvania, parents and children should continue to be vigilant with preventative measures such as frequent hand washing and good hygiene as recommended the PA Department of Health and the CDC. Any suspected exposure should be reported to the school nurse immediately. Please keep your children home if they appear sick.

After Governor Wolf’s press conference this afternoon regarding recommendations to prevent the possible outbreak of the Coronavirus, the Belle Vernon Area School District has determined that for the safety of our students, staff, and community, the following guidelines will be implemented beginning Friday, March 13, 2020 and will remain in effect through Friday, March 27, 2020 or until further notice:

- External organizations will not be permitted to utilize any of the Belle Vernon Area School District’s facilities, fields, or grounds. All previously approved and scheduled events during this time period are canceled. The district will contact these organizations, who will be responsible for notifying their own stakeholders.
- All district student and staff trips outside of Western Pennsylvania are canceled.
- To limit our students’ and staff exposure, all district field trips will be canceled.
- The district will only permit essential visitors (parents/guardians listed on emergency cards) to our schools and any program occurring during the school day will be canceled.
- School district home athletic games and practices will be held, but spectators will not be permitted to attend. However, this may change once districts received guidance from the WPIAL on the spring sports season.
- All district non-essential large group activities and gatherings will also be postponed. This includes all evening activities as well as the High School musical.

At this time, the district in NOT closing any school in the Belle Vernon Area. We have also not received any mandate to close school. There will be a webinar for all school districts today with the Pennsylvania Department of Education to receive further information regarding this situation. The district will provide updates as soon as we receive them. Please understand that this situation is changing by the hour and our main priority is the health and well-being of our students.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support as we strive to maintain a health and safe environment for our students, staff, and community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michele Dowell