Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we quickly approach the opening of school on August 31, 2020 I wanted to reach out to families with some important information. On Wednesday, I sent a school messenger alert to parents about signing up for our Sapphire Community Parent Portal. Taking this step as a parent is critical for your child, as it will house attendance, grades, homerooms, schedules and bus routes. Please know that the information in the system right now is still being updated and changed and will not be official until Wednesday, August 26, 2020. You can access the portal at https://www.bellevernonarea.net/Page/6760

Also, if you are not registered for Peach Jar announcements, I highly recommend signing up for this as well. Peachjar sign-up is located at https://accounts.peachjar.com/login

Beginning next week, the administration will be distributing devices to those students that indicated on their enrollment form that they did not have a device to use. A message will be sent from the individual buildings within the next few days to parents notifying when they should pick up their child’s device.

All students will be starting school on Monday, August 31st regardless of the program chosen. Students that chose the hybrid option with last names A-K should attend school in-person on Monday, August 31st. All other students will participate remotely on August 31st. Once the information in the parent portal is updated officially on August 26th, students are encouraged to log into their teacher’s Google Classrooms using their lunch number ie bvasd12345. Lunch numbers can be located in the Sapphire portal.

Schooling this year will look very different than it did in the Spring. Students will be receiving letter grades not pass/no pass marks. Students will also be held accountable for their attendance. It is very important that every child complete the following:

Students attending school remotely on their specified days and/or BVA@Home will be expected to check in using the Remote Daily Attendance Tab from the website each day that school is in session. Students and/or a Parent is expected to check in daily to account for accurate attendance tracking. The website can be accessed at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeXrktDmrkxZtIBy-YfDhos8jsInVS1ihfWzOkxiPE-W2RQug/viewform

Students that are unable to attend each of their Teacher’s live Zoom sessions will need to complete the Teacher specific Google, Asynchronous Attendance Form for Classwork. This form can be found within each Teacher’s Google Classroom.

We recently had a positive case of Covid-19 with one of our athletes. I know that this has caused a great deal of concern in the community. Once we were notified, we immediately contacted the PA Department of Health for guidance on our next steps. We spent a great deal of time collecting information to assist the PA Department of Health with contact tracing. The PA Department of Health told us who needed to quarantine, we did not make that decision. They also are responsible for notifying the parents as they have to give specific information and also obtain information for their reporting. As a courtesy, we sent a letter to parents prior to receiving a call from the department to try and be as proactive as we could. I understand that some parents are not understanding why a child who is positive only has to quarantine for 10 days if they have no symptoms but others who were in contact have to quarantine for 14 days. The reason for this is that the incubation period for
Covid-19 is anywhere from one to fourteen days and a person can become positive in that timeframe. Again, this information is coming from the PA Department of Health.

As we move forward with the reopening of our schools, please remember that our number one priority is the health and safety of everyone in our Belle Vernon Area Community. The administration has worked very hard this summer to anticipate situations and problem solve to make this hybrid opening a success. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me or your child’s principal.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michele Dowell
Superintendent