April 12, 2020

Dear Bigfork Families,

I hope this letter finds you well and enjoying your Easter weekend. It is hard to believe we have already had four weeks of virtual instruction. I am thankful to serve in a community of parents and family members who do whatever it takes to support each other and their students. It also an honor to lead a staff totally committed to providing for the needs of each child. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has been entirely unwelcome, it has exposed the roots of our relationships and our commitment to excellence.

Last week, Montana Superintendent of Public Instruction Elsie Arntzen encouraged all schools to make plans for continuing virtual schooling through the remainder of the 2019/2020 school year. We have done just that. However, please know school closures are the direct result of Governor Steve Bullock’s directives. Governor Bullock has clearly communicated his directives will be issued in two week increments, allowing for the possibility of getting back to regular session prior to the end of the academic year.

**From the Food Service Director and Transportation Director**

Starting tomorrow, Monday April 13th, our food delivery will switch to a Monday/Wednesday Friday schedule. All routes will continue running on the afternoon schedule. We will continue to do our best to stay on schedule and appreciate you being ready at each stop. So far, we are glad to share we have delivered over 4,600 meals. Please see our website link  [Application](http://opi.mt.gov/Portals/182/Page%20Files/School%20Nutrition/Meal%20Eligibility/Forms%20and%20Policy/FreeReduced%20App%202019-2020.pdf?ver=2019-07-10-143221-637) if you would like to if you are interested in signing up for Free/Reduced meals.

If you need any assistance in finding or completing the application please contact us:

Roger Vanlandingham  406-837-7400  EXT 4037 [rvanlandingham@bigfork.k12.mt.us](mailto:rvanlandingham@bigfork.k12.mt.us)

If you would like meals delivered by bus but are not a registered rider, please register at <https://www.bigforkschools.org/family-resources/bus-routes-information/>

**Technology and Supply Needs?**

If your family is currently without internet access, please let us know by calling the District Office at 837-7400. If you find yourself in need of technology, books, supplies or anything else, please do not hesitate to fill out the google form on our website. <https://forms.gle/n9Ly2MeDGT45jkEz6>

Our primary goals are to keep students moving forward on essential learning standards, meet the needs of individual students, while keeping the health and safety of our students and staff in the forefront.  Regardless of what the state may mandate during this situation when it comes to hours needed, credits earned and accreditation standards, Bigfork Schools is working to ensure students have successfully completed current grade level content in order to be successful at the next grade level.  We are exploring every option to ensure that happens.

Sincerely,

Matt Jensen

Superintendent