

March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear BTPS Parents,

We can only imagine the challenges that you might be experiencing in the current COVID-19 situation! Having your children at home on a full time basis, working to assist them in their learning, and managing the day to day operations of your home, in a very different world, are just a few of the realities we know you are facing.

The availability of information through a wide variety of sources is both an advantage and a disadvantage. It is good to know what is happening around the world with respect to COVID-19. The successes experienced in “flattening the curve” gives us hope and motivation to continue the measures that we have been asked to implement in our schools, our communities and our personal lives. At the same time, the negative impacts of COVID-19 bombard the media. For our children, this information and these images are very scary. The situation has taken a toll in terms of fear and uncertainty of what is to come. Social distancing has also meant that students are not able to connect with their peers in the same way. This may lead to some challenges in mental health in terms of feelings of fear, isolation and loneliness.

While we are concerned with the educational impacts of school closures through this pandemic, the pressure that has been placed on families and children is equally concerning. We are doing our best to provide mental health supports to students that would typically be available in our schools during normal operations. Our Learning Services team have made resources related to Inclusive Learning to support parents who might be struggling or have children who are in need of mental health support. We have created a [document](#) that will assist those who were receiving support while in our schools, as well as some information on how we will be working to continue that support. For those whose children need mental health support but have not accessed it in the past, we have provided some immediate contact information. We also encourage you to contact your child’s school directly and ask to speak to the principal or the Inclusive Learning teacher. They will be able to help you find the best way to get assistance for your child or your family. We all care deeply for you and your children!

Being a parent is so difficult. It is even more challenging in a time when there is so much uncertainty in the world. One of the biggest challenges is trying to appear calm in a time of crisis. We want to support you and we thank you for all that you are doing.

Take care,



Bob Allen  
Superintendent



Lanie Parr  
Board Chair