



BENTON

AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Due to the rising number of COVID cases in the area and recommendations from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and medical professionals, the Benton Area School Board voted to transition to all remote learning after Thanksgiving break. This will begin on Dec 1st and remain in effect until January 18th. This is not a reaction to specific COVID cases within the district. This move is being made out of an abundance of caution, to reduce gathering sizes, provide quarantine time throughout the holiday season, protect our students, and provide continuity of education. Again, this remote learning shift is based on recommendations from PDE and the DOH due to Columbia County entering into a second week identified as an area of substantial transmission risk. We urge all students, families and community members to continue healthy practices including social distancing, hand washing, mask wearing and avoiding large gatherings during this time.

These requirements will hold true in the case of a school closure:

Attendance:

- Students are expected to log-in to each course's Google Classroom and/or Accelerate Education and complete assignments every school day. School will be conducted asynchronously (not live teaching) throughout the closure period. However, some coursework will require synchronous (live teaching) education such as college courses.
- Students not participating or completing assignments could be subject to disciplinary actions in accordance with local and state attendance policies.
- Simply signing into the computer does not count as completed coursework.
- A student must log in AND complete work for each course to be marked as present. Not completing work for a course could result in an unexcused or unlawful absence.
- Should students be unavailable to complete work for a specific class due to an appointment or illness, please contact the school's secretary. For the elementary school, call or email Deb Popp dpopp@bentonsd.org 570-925-2351 ext. 2000. For the middle-senior high call or email Cathy Hartman chartman@bentonsd.org 570-925-2651 ext. 3000.

Assignments:

- **At the Elementary school check your email or Bloomz app daily for assignments.**
- **At the MS/HS check your Google Classroom every day for each class.** This is where assignments and directions will be posted by your teacher. You may be directed to another site, however, this will be the main platform for you to receive instructions from the class.
- Check your email every day for communication with your teachers.
- All grades will be kept in Sapphire for the MS/HS.
- Teachers may offer live sessions to students during the school day. Student attendance at these live sessions is not required at this time, but is highly encouraged.
- All assigned work must be completed by the due dates assigned. Failing to complete work means a failing grade.

Thank you for your understanding during this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,

Two handwritten signatures in red ink. The first signature is "Jillann Shupp" and the second is "Jennifer Allen".

Jillann Shupp and Jennifer Allen - Principals