

# BOLTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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April 9, 2020

Dear Parents and Staff,

I hope you are all staying safe and feeling well. Governor Lamont announced this afternoon that the earliest schools will re-open will be May 20, 2020. We will continue with our Distance Learning Plan for the duration of the closure. More information will be forthcoming regarding grading in the next couple of weeks. Below please find information that I hope you will find helpful and informative. I would like to begin with some positive news that I hope our entire community will enjoy.

## **Easter Bunny is Coming to Town!** ~ [Wave to the Easter Bunny Flyer](#)

The Easter Bunny is scheduled to arrive in Bolton this Saturday morning between 9 – 11 AM. The Fire Department is planning to provide transportation for the Bunny through town in the best way that they can. There will be several Easter Bunnies and we will be dividing the community into sections. Unfortunately, there will NOT be a schedule of streets and time due to the number of roads in town, number of children and families by the side of the road, availability of apparatus, weather, etc. For those that want to see the Easter Bunny, wait until you hear the fire truck approaching your home and come out and stand in your yard or near the side of the road. Please remember to practice social distancing during this event. We are hoping to make this a fun and safe event for all and ask for your patience and understanding.

\*\* Please note that if the fire department needs to respond to an emergency, the transportation for the Easter Bunny will need to end.\*\*

## **BCS Video**

As you know our teachers and students have been hard at work at home. I hope you enjoy this wonderful video of our BCS students hard at work at <https://youtu.be/JcchEzK6Jf4>!

## **Artwork From My House to Our Town** ~ [Artwork - From My House to Our Town.pdf](#)

We are inviting all students to create a work of art by April 24<sup>th</sup> to share with our community to lift our collective spirits during this difficult time – please see the attached flyer. Once a student has completed his/her piece of art, please take a photo of the artwork using a smartphone camera and upload the picture to this link at <http://addvideo.link/BoltonArt>. Thank you so much to Mrs. Argenta and Mrs. Vouglas for helping me put this together for our students! The plan is to create a virtual art show video set to music to share with the community.

## **Early Release Wednesdays**

We have learned a great deal about teaching and learning online through our distance learning platform. The move to distance learning continues to be challenging and uncharted territory for all of us. Until we return to school, every Wednesday will be an early release day for all students in all grades beginning on Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The school day will run from 9 – 11 AM. The work assigned in all grades on Wednesdays will be a much lighter load and will require much less support. Teachers will use the time on early release Wednesdays to work collaboratively with colleagues, participate in professional learning on effective remote virtual instructional design, delivery, and practice, as well as plan lessons and activities to support distance learning.

## **Fun Resources**

Connecticut Science Center – Have fun at home with science at <https://ctsciencecenter.org/>.  
National Geographic for Kids- Watch videos, play games and learn about animals and nature at [kids.nationalgeographic.com](https://kids.nationalgeographic.com).

Unite for Literacy - Find books that are short, colorful, and easy to understand with the option for narration in home languages. New books and languages are added every month at [www.uniteforliteracy.com](https://www.uniteforliteracy.com).

Zoo cams - San Diego and other zoos have live cameras to watch animal activity at [zoo.sandiegozoo.org/live-cams](https://zoo.sandiegozoo.org/live-cams).

## **“Grab n’ Go” Meals**

Just a reminder we continue to offer breakfast and lunch “Grab n’ Go” meals during the closure. This is available to any Bolton family with children up to age 18. Please note we will return to our regular distribution schedule beginning Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup> and serving two (2) breakfast and lunch meals on Mondays, two (2) breakfast and lunch meals on Wednesdays, and three (3) breakfast and lunch meals on Fridays at Bolton High School between 8:00 – 9:00 AM. Please be sure to follow the following protocol:

1. Line up in cars on the side of Bolton High School next to the cafeteria.
2. Please **Do Not Leave** your vehicle or enter the building/
3. Tell us how many children in your care that need meals.
4. Wait in vehicle until staff brings out the meals and places them on a table.
5. Staff **will walk away and you can leave your vehicle to pick up the meals on the table and return to your car.**

## **Well-being and Self-Care**

Below are some helpful links and resources for coping with and reducing anxiety.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/talking-with-children.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/managing-stress-anxiety.html>

[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/COVID-19/PSSF/040720\\_Social-Emotional-Family-Resources](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/COVID-19/PSSF/040720_Social-Emotional-Family-Resources)

Please know that EMPS/211 Mobile Crisis Services are available to support schools and families during this stressful time. They are providing support to the schools and the parents/caregivers who feel the need for support with parenting stress or even their child’s mental health or behavioral needs through phone consultation and telehealth virtual sessions. Due to the pandemic, they are also screening families for health risk enabling them to make decisions around responding to the high risk situations where an in-person response might be necessary. If you or your child(ren) are in need of this type of support please dial 211, 1 and 1 again to reach the crisis team.

Together we can make a difference! I hope everyone has a restful spring break!

Stay safe and be well,

*Kristin B. Heckt*

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Superintendent of Schools