

Dear ABSS Family:

We have just received an important update from the state that we have been expecting since Governor Cooper announced the mandatory school shutdown on March 14. Now, by executive order, all North Carolina public schools will remain closed at least through May 15. This news is not a surprise but it will alter our familiar routines.

While there is plenty of uncertainty with the announcement of an extended school closure, ABSS has been planning and preparing for it. We are still here and our educators are ready. Schools and teachers have been in constant communication with families and we will continue all of our outreach efforts.

We have implemented plans for learning to continue at home. Our teachers' expectations for student achievement remain high. We can and we will be successful together.

Our efforts to support other student and family needs will continue as long as possible, including our grab and go breakfast and lunch service, as well as mobile distribution using our yellow school buses. Our school counselors, social workers and nurses will still be available to assist with questions and concerns.

As we enter the final 9 weeks of our school year, please know that we have prepared for this next challenge. Everyone will have lots of questions about school year-end traditions like proms, awards days, and graduation. We will work together to determine what those experiences will look like and when they will occur, depending on mandated guidelines by the state of North Carolina. We all cherish the celebration of our students' achievements and milestones. We don't have all of the answers yet, but our pledge to you is that we will work together to provide the best end of the 2019-2020 school year possible given the unprecedented measures taken to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus.

While we can't return to our familiar classrooms and school routines now, the relationships we value with each other, the bonds we have built together and our willingness to be flexible and creative will see us through this challenging time. We are making history together – a history that we will look back on and be proud of our actions and outcomes.

Our compassionate community is also with us every step of the way, ready and willing to support our needs. We will continue to help each other as always and work together to create solutions to our challenges.

Our promise to you is that while we can't be together in person with our students and families, our support and care for one another will remain as strong as ever. We will be successful together.

Sincerely,

Bruce Benson
Superintendent