

April 20, 2020

JB Parents and Guardians,

As you may have seen, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine just ordered all Ohio schools to be physically closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. This order applies to all K-12 schools in the state and comes after the Governor and his team reevaluated the previous return date of May 1.

While we planned for this possibility, it's still deeply disappointing. We respect the Governor's decision, as the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff has remained our highest priority through all of this. However, *we miss our kids. We miss our families.* Our teachers, therapists, and administrators are heartbroken that they cannot celebrate the end of the school year and the tremendous growth of our kids in person.

And they have grown tremendously. While it can be discouraging to think of what students may be missing out on, please remember that your children are still learning vital technology skills that will serve them as they grow. They're learning how to be more flexible - a skill we teach at every grade level. They're participating in virtual lessons, therapy sessions, and exploring the same topics they would be if they were sitting at their desks. They're also learning from YOU! During the day, they're receiving plenty of lessons about sharing with siblings, making snacks for themselves, taking breaks when they need to, and balancing school work with their home lives. They are learning and growing, even though it might look different than usual. **We're so very proud of them and appreciate all you have been doing to support this effort.**

You likely have many questions about what the rest of the school year will look like. While we're currently working with our faculty and staff to finalize plans, we have a few reminders and reassurances to share:

1. We will complete the school year as planned via distance learning. Students are still responsible for attending school and completing assignments through Friday, May 29.
2. We assure you that we will still celebrate our graduating students in any way we can. As soon as we have an opportunity to be together, we will hold a graduation ceremony. Stay tuned for more communication about this.
3. We aim to hold Beyond Camp as planned from July 6th to July 31st. Beyond Camp is strategically structured and staffed to help prevent summer learning loss and promote social skills and academics through community-based experiences. If you're interested in Beyond Camp, please visit the [webpage](#) today.
4. Because we are able to offer a full education including IEP directed therapies via distance learning, all families are expected to pay tuition for the school year. Final payments are due by the last day of school, Friday, May 29. If you are having difficulty making payments because of recent impacts, please let us know.

5. At this time, we will not be extending the current school year or altering the 2020-2021 school year.
6. We will remain in contact about grades, yearbooks, and any pick-up dates to collect supplies or materials you may need to close out the school year.
7. We are actively planning for next school year so that we can be prepared for different possibilities. Governor DeWine made clear today that he is encouraged by superintendents and principals in the state and is discussing what a return in the fall might look like. We will be prepared for whatever comes.

This school year has taught us many lessons as a community. We're stronger together. We're resilient. We're more adaptable than we ever thought possible. And, most importantly, that our kids are the glue of this community. Distance learning works and technology is impressive - but we couldn't do what we do without our kids and their families.

Gratefully yours in mission,

Lannie Davis-Frecker, Jodi Johnston, and Jason Wojnicz
Julie Billiard Schools Administration

Helpful Links

[Julie Billiard Schools COVID-19 Alert Page \(updated regularly\)](#)
[Ohio Department of Health CDC Updates](#)
[Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 Cases](#)
[COVID-19 Information and Resources for Schools and School Personnel](#)

Join the JB Community on Social Media

Engage with other families, find helpful resources, and join in on the #JBSpirit.

[Julie Billiard Schools Facebook](#)
[JB Akron Facebook Group](#)
[JB Lyndhurst Facebook Group](#)
[Julie Billiard Schools Twitter](#)
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