

# THOMAS JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



1255 Patriot Place – Forest, Virginia 24551

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## Office of the Principal Mr. Tim Overstreet

Phone: (434) 534-6159

Fax: (434) 534-6240

Email: [toverstreet@bedford.k12.va.us](mailto:toverstreet@bedford.k12.va.us)

March 25, 2020

Hello TJES Families,

If you're like us, then the governor's announcement yesterday leaves you with many questions. I want to start by saying that this is new and uncharted territory for everyone – including educators. We fully understand how upsetting and confusing all of this is because we are feeling it in many ways as well. Our teachers and staff immediately began expressing their sadness when we learned that time with our students was being cut short this year. That said, I want to be transparent in telling you that we aren't going to have an immediate answer to every single question at this time, but I can assure you that as we receive information and develop plans we will share that information with you as quickly as possible.

I want to go ahead and address a few things that may be on your minds, knowing that we will have much more to share in the days and weeks to come. It is important to understand that we are receiving new guidance from the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and the school division frequently, and this information is likely to be adjusted often.

1. Medication Pickup - BCPS school clinics will be open on Thursday, March 26, 2020 and Friday, March 27, 2020 from 9:00 AM until 12:00 PM. Our school nurse will be available to disperse your child's medication or supplies to a parent or any other individual listed on your child's emergency contact list. If this date / time poses a hardship for you, please email me ([toverstreet@bedford.k12.va.us](mailto:toverstreet@bedford.k12.va.us)) or call 540-586-1045 and enter '0' immediately when the message begins to speak with a school representative or leave a message. School staff will follow up upon receipt of the message.

2. Student Belongings at School / Locker Cleanout / Library Books you wish to drop off - at this time we are still in the process of developing a plan to provide students and families with opportunities to come and collect belongings from the building and lockers. We will share this plan with you as soon as it is available. All items are secured and locked in the building.

3. Learning Activities - while we await further guidance from the VDOE and school division regarding learning activities, our teachers are excited to do everything they can to keep our

students learning. As such, we will be working to provide weekly updates via our teacher webpages and our TJES “Family Bulletin”. Our learning suggestions for the week of March 23 - March 27 have been posted. At this time, it is important to remember that these activities are not required, nor are they graded. Our goal is for our students to continue learning.

Some of you have reached out regarding limited internet access, and we are currently working on a plan to identify more ways to share learning activities with our students. Please feel free to continue reaching out to your teachers directly through email. All email addresses are posted on our school website.

Finally, I just want to say again that this is a new experience for all of us. I wish I could show you the countless calls, emails, and messages I have received from our staff and community asking what they can do to help. It is amazing to see how quickly we can mobilize when we are all committed to doing what is right for our students. While this is a perplexing time for everyone, it highlights the strength and unity of our school and community, and it makes me very proud to be a part of the TJES family!

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or Mrs. Boyd via email at [toverstreet@bedford.k12.va.us](mailto:toverstreet@bedford.k12.va.us) or [sboyd@bedford.k12.va.us](mailto:sboyd@bedford.k12.va.us) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Tim Overstreet