

March 26, 2020

To all members of the Bishop Brady community,

I hope that this update finds you in good health and adjusting to the new normal. The last two weeks have been a time of continual change, added restrictions, and alternate ways of studying, working, and connecting with each other. Keep at it!

A few hours ago, Governor Sununu increased the state response to COVID-19 with a Stay At Home Order for the state of NH. While most of us have worked hard to follow the social distancing recommendations, this serves to add an additional layer to our current restrictions. In addition, remote instruction has been extended, at least through May 4<sup>th</sup>.

What does this mean for Bishop Brady High School? For me, personally, it means the continuation of daily phone calls, emails, video conferences and webinars. I am SLOWLY getting more comfortable with the remote platforms although I still have a lot to learn.

While the school building has been open over the past two weeks for parents and students to pick up necessary materials, as of the end of day on Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, the building will now be closed to the public and non-essential employees. All faculty and most staff have already transitioned to working from home. Beginning March 28<sup>th</sup>, only a few essential employees will have access to the building to keep the facility and business operations running, and keep an eye on the plants we are growing for the Sycamore Garden Project.

The Leadership Team has been meeting remotely twice a week in anticipation of the extension of remote instruction that was announced earlier today. In addition to the academic roll out this week, we will roll out “virtual” Advisory meetings next week. Students can expect to hear from their advisor next Monday for a brief “check-in” and additional Advisory activities will be added in subsequent weeks. On April 6<sup>th</sup>, BBHS will roll out a Virtual Monday Morning meeting on various social media platforms. The Leadership Team will be working out the details next week but we have already signed up Brady sophomore Matt Wiley for “Joke of the Week”. Parents and students can expect separate detailed email updates in the next 48 hours which will include a plan for modification of service hours and a link for a short online survey. What you are all experiencing is critical to helping us make needed adjustments in remote instruction.

There is a silver lining to this COVID-19 pandemic. While it has been a great challenge, this crisis has served to bring out the best in all of us. I would like to publicly thank all of our Brady employees for stepping up, on very short notice, and becoming leaders in moving us forward. I would also like to thank our students and families for their patience and flexibility during this period of transition. To our larger Brady community alumni and friends, I thank you for your prayers and notes of support. They serve to keep us going in our most difficult moments.

To the Class of 2020, this has certainly changed the end of the year for each of you. To what extent, I really don't know at this time. Pray for me as I must continue making very difficult decisions for you, and for the school. Know that we will find a way to acknowledge and celebrate you. I'm not sure when. I'm not sure how. But we will!

In peace,

Andrea Isaak Elliot  
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Principal