

November 20, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This letter is to provide information regarding any days that might be missed due to inclement weather or other circumstances. The options will be the same as last year using the School Board's eLearning Policy.

On August 17, 2015 the BCSC School Board approved our school corporation's eLearning Policy. This policy allows school cancellation days for students to be made up by the limited use of eLearning days. The options include an eLearning day from home on Saturday or on the actual day of the school cancellation. A more complete explanation can be found within a copy of this policy located on our corporation website under School Board, Policies, and eLearning Policy.

This year's procedure for missed school days will be as follows: The first and second missed day of school would be made up using the flex days in chronological order. If a missed day occurs within three school days prior to an unused flex day, then that flex day would not be used as a make-up day. Once the flex days are used, eLearning days would be considered. These days have been approved by the State Department of Education for our corporation to use them. Additionally, if more than two consecutive days are missed, any missed school day immediately following would need to be made up by eLearning Saturdays or at the end of the school year. The option to add make-up days to the end of the school year is always available. If days are missed that require the extension of the school year, modifications to previously scheduled make-up days could be done to accommodate end of year schedules.

In the event there would be a cancelled school day, notification will be made via our phone messaging system, SchoolMessenger, as to whether the day will also serve as an eLearning day. This information will also be posted on the corporation and school websites. On an eLearning day, all teachers will be readily available through email from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm to assist their students and to answer any student or parent questions regarding the assignments. Students will have two days upon return to school to see that the assignments are completed and turned in for credit.

The main purpose of using these eLearning days during the year is to allow important instruction to be completed prior to testing that will be required for many of these students. The work assigned during these days will be aligned with the instructional goals that are ongoing in each classroom. The assignments will not be excessive or difficult, but relevant and familiar to the students. Care is being taken to provide our students with needed educational instruction, while minimizing anxiety for both students and parents.

The corporation is aware that not all households have internet access. Modifications will be made to insure access to the needed materials. The junior high and senior high students have Chromebooks that materials can be downloaded on, or they may have hard copies of materials provided by their teachers. All students will be using **itslearning** as their primary online connection to access assignments. The students will access the **itslearning** portal through the eLearning tab on the corporation website www.benton.k12.in.us . Elementary student families with internet access can use home devices to access and complete assignments. Families without internet access, or having concerns with this method, will have hard copy assignments sent home with their students. This communication will occur through their student's teachers. All teachers are preparing five days of eLearning assignments that will be ready before we would conduct the first eLearning day.

Important aspects of the eLearning assignments are that they have good educational value and should be consistent with the curriculum being taught in each classroom; the lessons will not just be busywork. All eLearning assignments will be available online, and some activities may include online resources or web-based activities. However, because not all students will have access to the internet at home, alternate or paper-based activities will be included for students who may need them.

It is the corporation's desire to make these eLearning days a meaningful experience for our students. The corporation strongly requests all that can use online access to complete assignments to please do so. Your help in facilitating use of these days is greatly appreciated and necessary for this to be successful. The Saturday option allows extended time, using the entire weekend, to accommodate students and families that might have activities that conflict. More information will be coming through your student's respective school and teachers. It is our hope that the winter is mild, and inclement weather will have a minimal impact on the educational schedule of our students and staff.

Sincerely,

Gregg Hoover
Superintendent
Benton Community School Corporation