



## PARENT NOTIFICATION

March 11, 2020

COVID-19 Coronavirus is beginning to spread in communities across the nation, including the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It is imperative for all sectors of the community to properly plan for the short-term by taking steps to prevent and slow the spread of the virus using containment strategies, followed by mitigation strategies to try to lessen the impact on the population.

Bear Creek Community Charter School administrators have been discussing this issue for a number of weeks now, including our response as the virus spreads. We have been utilizing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as our primary source for valid information. Since the majority of our students originate from the Wilkes-Barre Area School District, we have also been in consultation with Dr. Brian Costello.

We have implemented a number of measures internally relating to students and staff who are exhibiting symptoms of illness, as well as additional disinfecting procedures.

Based on how the virus has spread and impacted other industrialized nations, guidance from CDC and our federal partners, and putting the best interests of our students, staff and families at the forefront, **Bear Creek Community Charter School is implementing changes to our school activities.** This is being done now so we are "ahead of the game", parents can plan accordingly, and we are in a better position to respond as the situation develops.

Decisions are going to be made that are not ideal; but I will reiterate that the safety of our students, staff and families has been - and always will be - our first priority. Bear Creek Community Charter School will continue to keep our stakeholders informed via PENS alerts, social media, e-mail newsletters, and our school web site. I appreciate everyone's understanding as the situation develops.

Jim Smith

### **March Changes**

- Biddy Bruin activities will end on or before Friday, March 20th. Tammy Miller will be disseminating details to parents later today.
- The Alumni/Staff Basketball Game scheduled for Thursday, March 26th has been cancelled.
- All Pro Dads Breakfast scheduled for Thursday, March 26th has been cancelled.
- The Bear Creek Foundation has cancelled Easter Egg Stuffing scheduled for Wednesday, April 1st.
- The Bear Creek Foundation has cancelled the Community Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for Saturday, April 4th.
- The Parent/Teacher Organization meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 8th has been cancelled.
- Bear Creek Night, originally scheduled for Thursday, April 16th has been postponed until Thursday, May 7th.
- All Pro Dads Breakfast scheduled for Thursday, April 23rd has been cancelled.