



# Update as of 4-18-2020

Dear parents:

You may have already heard that Governor Ron DeSantis has called for all Florida school campuses to remain closed and for emergency distance learning plans to continue for the remainder of this school year.

**Please see below for a statement from Superintendent Husfelt regarding this announcement:**

“Student safety will always be our first priority. While the news today from the Governor is saddening because we all miss our students and miss the structure of a regular school day, we know it's a relief to many of our families and employees who were very concerned about their safety and the spread of Covid-19.

As we continue, now, with our emergency distance learning program we will continue also to encourage our students, their families and our employees to show grace and compassion for each other and for themselves. What we're attempting to do is VERY difficult and VERY challenging but I know that we can overcome any obstacles put in our path because we've already accomplished so much since Hurricane Michael ravaged our community.

I expect we will get some additional information in the weeks and days to come about graduation, summer programs and the structures and support that will be in place for our eventual return to regular school campuses and schedules. As soon as that information is shared with us from state and federal level leaders, we will share with our entire community. It's possible that graduations may be postponed or rescheduled but, given the guidelines in place right now and for the foreseeable future, we don't expect to be able to hold any “mass gatherings” anytime soon.

I sincerely hope that our students continue to stay safe and well and that they are supported by caring, trusted adults. I know that our teachers are working tirelessly to stay connected to our students and I applaud them, and those who support them, for all of their selfless hard work and dedication. We're already working hard to prepare our campuses for an eventual return to school next year and we're going to do everything we can to make that as safe as possible. We miss our students, we know they miss us, but our collective safety as a community remains our number

one goal and we appreciate the Governor making this difficult decision and doing what he can to keep Floridians as safe as possible.

**We know that you probably have many questions about graduation, summer programs and other dates and deadlines. We will be working hard to finalize plans in those areas as soon as we receive additional guidance from the state. We will continue to do our best to keep you as updated and informed as possible. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to:**



**Contact your child's teacher via email**



**Contact your child's principal via phone/email**



**Call 767-HELP (4357)**



**Email [BDScomm@bay.k12.fl.us](mailto:BDScomm@bay.k12.fl.us)**

