

Redondo Beach Unified School District
Birney Elementary School
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<http://birney.rbusd.org/>
Mrs. Mira Baskaron, Principal

Dear Bobcat Families:

I hope this message finds you and your family healthy and well, continuing to enjoy the 3-day weekend as a family. First, I want to thank our community for providing space and calm while school leaders worked to navigate these last 48 hours. It has been, and will continue to be, our goal to make measured decisions based on facts and what is in the best interest of our students. I really appreciate that you have waited patiently and given me time, as Birney's Principal, to gather information and share it with you in a timely manner.

Please take a minute to read this message carefully and through its entirety as my hopes are to answer many of the questions you have as a family in regards to next steps in the coming weeks. On behalf of our entire staff, we appreciate your patience and flexibility as our teachers prepare to provide students with remote online learning. Our entire staff is here to support families and students throughout these next three weeks and will be readily accessible to answer questions through electronic methods.

Our superintendent, Dr. Steven Keller, sent all families a message yesterday with updates on the COVID-19 school closure logistics. If you have not seen this letter, please take a minute to read it by clicking [here](#).

Per this notice, please note the following:

- All Redondo Beach Unified School District **campuses will be closed to all students beginning on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 through spring break on Friday, April 10, 2020**. This includes our CDC and City of Redondo Beach Rec Programs.
- **There is no school for students on Monday, March 16, 2020**. However, our campuses will be open to students only for the purpose of students picking up personal belongings and district-issued Chromebooks (3rd – 5th Grade) between the hours of 9 am – 12 pm. ***Please note that if your child already has these items at home, there is no need to come to school on Monday.*** This will be a time for families to pick-up what they need quickly and not a time to engage in conferencing with your child's teacher and/or gathering with other families on campus. We are encouraging families to use [social distancing](#) practices during this time. By picking items up quickly from the classroom you will help your child's teacher maximize time to continue to plan for remote instruction.
- Birney will be **CLOSED** to the public after 12 pm on Monday, March 16, 2020. This includes the use of facilities, playground, field, cafeteria, etc. Our front office staff will be available to answer phone calls only. **Email is the best form of communication with myself, teachers, and staff members.** We will do our best to get back to you in a timely manner.
- **Health office will be open from 9am-12pm on Monday, March 16 in the event you would like to pick up student medication, as some may expire during the break.**

- New student registrations and CDC registrations are suspended until school re-opens. Deadlines for School of Choice, Inter/Intra District Permits, Dual Immersion Applications, and CDC enrollments will be extended once schools re-open.
- Starting on Tuesday, March 17, all District students are welcome to come to the Adams Middle School parking lot (2600 Ripley Avenue) to pick up one breakfast and one lunch meal between the hours of 8:00 am and 10:00 am. These meals will be provided daily to all students at no charge. Because our campuses are closed, we ask that students please consume these meals off campus. Meal service will continue through Friday, April 3, unless otherwise stated. **Important:** Students must be present to receive these meals. Parents may not pick up meals without students.

Beginning on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, your child's teacher will provide online learning instructions on a weekly basis. You can expect the first message from teachers to be communicated to you by 10 am on Wednesday, March 18. This message (either via email or Google Classroom) will contain information on what your child can work on remotely over the course of the week.

Details regarding remote instruction include:

- Each Monday by 10 am, your teacher will communicate that week's learning objectives, assignments, and information. Above all else, it is essential you continue to read with your child. In one of the most definitive studies on reading growth, the overwhelming conclusion was the amount of time students spent in independent reading outside of school was the best predictor of reading and school achievement. Teachers will provide you with online resources on how to do this, however, we also know that many of our students have access to great material at home as well.
- The purpose of the assignments provided is to maintain your child's academic progress during the school closure. **New content and new learning is not our aim.** Our online instruction will be focused on preventing learning loss and assignments will be based on previously taught concepts.
- While our 3rd – 5th grade students are proficient with Google Classroom and the use of their Chromebooks, we know that there may be questions regarding access to technology for our TK – 2nd grade students. Teachers will provide students multiple options of practice so that if your technology options are limited, you can still work with your child to complete learning activities.
- Teachers will continue to collaborate with their grade level colleagues during this time to ensure consistency among each grade level. Teachers will provide a daily, 2-hour block of digital office hours in which they will be readily available for families/students. Those times will be communicated to you by your classroom teacher on Wednesday, March 18, via email.
- Special education teachers will continue to collaborate with general education teachers and provide accommodations and consultation to support Individual Education Plan (IEP) goals. Service providers (Speech, Occupational Therapist, Counselor, etc.) will continue through a consultative model via email and other online formats to provide support and activities per IEP goals. You will hear more about this in the coming days.

In addition to the information your child's teacher shares with you in their first email, please consider the following:

- Take time to review your expectations with your child during this time of school closure. Create routines together and set up a schedule for daily school work and reading.

- Take a minute to read the parent guide attached on talking to children about COVID-19.
- Consider creating a [media contract](#) at home in regards to use of technology, your expectations as a parent, and access to screen time during school closures.
- Consider creating an account on [Go Noodle](#) for access to brain break activities and videos.
- Use the attached document called “7 Ways to Promote Good Study Habits.”

The Birney Team is committed to continuing to serve our students’ learning throughout this time. I ask that you wait to ask your child’s teacher questions until the release of their first instructional plan on Wednesday, March 18. I want them focused on developing that plan at the start of this week. Should you have questions, please reach out to myself (mbaskaron@rbusd.org) or Monica Way, Administrative Assistant (mway@rbusd.org).

Below you will find a calendar of events cancelled due to school closures. You can expect to continue receiving weekly e-blasts and updates on school happenings. We appreciate your support through safe, calm, and caring communication. I expect we will make mistakes and changes as we navigate this challenging time. I also expect that we have left some questions unanswered. Please be patient and remember this is a first for all of us; we are in this together.

Take care of you and yours and stay healthy.

All the Best,

Mira Baskaron
Principal

The following events will be cancelled/postponed for now:

- **3rd Grade Battle of the Books**
- **5th Grade Fitness Day**
- **STEM Night**
- **Talent Show try-outs**
- **Field Trips**
- **4th/5th Grade Battle of the Books**
- **Awards Assembly**
- **Carnival**
- **PTA Meetings (both general and board meetings)**

All parent meetings (including IEP, 504, and SST meetings) will be rescheduled.