

**Branson Public Schools  
District Closure  
Update May 7th, 2020**

**Questions and Answers**

THE MARK OF COMMUNITY  
IS NOT THE ABSENCE OF  
CONFLICT.

IT'S THE PRESENCE OF A  
RECONCILING SPIRIT.

-BILL HYBELS

This past week, we honored our teachers, nurses and food service team members. However, we would be negligent not to remember the good works of all team members during this unprecedented time in our school year. Thank you, all, for a job well done. The pictures, comments, and tweets have been fun to read, but only scratch the surface in expressing gratitude for the dedication of district staff members.

Over the past seven weeks, the “work” of committed individuals has changed from small group instruction to *Google Meets*; from caring for students throughout the day to taking everyone’s temperature; and from serving students in the cafeteria to packing and delivering food throughout the community. The core of this work has remained the

same - meeting the individual needs of each student.

On behalf of the Board of Education and the community, special thanks to our team members for a job well done. We’re proud of you and we’re honored to celebrate you during this “appreciation” week. Thank you!

We are committed to ongoing communication throughout the days and weeks ahead. As more information is available, we will communicate directly with you as appropriate. In addition, the district has created a dedicated [link](#) on our website to post all correspondence from the district and guidance from governing officials. The district will also use Twitter, the district Facebook page, and SchoolMessenger to deliver pertinent information.

**Quick Links:** The links below will connect you to specific headings with new content added to the top of each heading.

<p><a href="#">School Calendar</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>New - School / District Office Hours</b></li><li>• <b>Updated - Summer School Dates</b></li><li>• <b>New - Field and Gym Guidelines</b></li></ul> <p><a href="#">Community Resources Food Distribution / Childcare</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Updated - Final Weeks</b></li></ul> <p><a href="#">Family and Community Questions</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Updated - Community Pick-Up</b></li></ul>	<p><a href="#">Teaching and Learning: PreK-Elementary</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>New - Last Assignments / Final-Check In</b></li></ul> <p><a href="#">Teaching and Learning: Secondary (7-12)</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>New - Last Assignments / Final-Check In</b></li></ul> <p><a href="#">Special Services</a></p>
--	--

## School Calendar

### ***Are Branson Schools and District Offices open to the public? - New***

As the community of Branson starts to re-open, each school and the District Office will be staffed to answer calls, process mail, and receive packages. Lobbies and offices will not be open to the public until further notice.

### ***Will the extended closure change Summer School dates? - Updated***

Branson Public Schools are excited to announce **Summer School 2020 - Sail into Summer**. Summer school will be designed for SEATED and VIRTUAL instruction for students entering grades kindergarten through high school. All students will receive quality instruction from a classroom teacher and will be eligible for a FREE breakfast and lunch.

**Elementary Summer School (for students entering K-6th grades):** Monday-Thursday, July 6th-30th, from 7:45 a.m to 2:45 p.m. at Buchanan Elementary School. Pre-K students will need to complete kindergarten enrollment requirements to be eligible for summer school. Elementary students can [register here](#).

**Secondary Summer School (for students entering 7th-12th grades):** Monday-Thursday, July 6th-23rd, from 7:30 a.m to 2:30 p.m. at Branson High School. Secondary students can [register here](#).

### ***How will the district closure affect graduation?***

After careful thought, consideration, and informal feedback from the senior class of 2020, Branson High School is excited to announce the week of July 27th as Senior Week. The week is dedicated to celebrating and honoring the accomplishments, commitments and talents of our senior class. The week will include senior awards, prom, painting the hill, sports/activity nights and will culminate with Graduation of the Class of 2020 on August 1, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. at Pirate Stadium. We recognize these are uncertain times and that dates, times, and social distancing protocols may dictate and interfere with these plans; therefore, we must all be flexible in our approach.

#### BHS Senior Week

July 27 – August 1, 2020

- Monday, July 27                      Senior Awards Night (Auditorium)
- Tuesday, July 28                     Activity Recognition
- Wednesday, July 29                 Prom (Hilton Convention Center)
- Thursday, July 30                    Activity Recognition
- Friday, July 31                        Graduation Practice and Paint Senior Hill (AM)
- Saturday, August 1                   Graduation (9:00 a.m, Pirate Stadium)

### ***Will school activities and dances, including MSHSAA activities, continue during the closure? -***

Following Governor Parson's announcement on April 9, 2020, directing all schools to close for the remainder of the school year, the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) has canceled all of the remaining post-season events for the 2019-20 school year.

### ***What are the guidelines for facility usage of District fields and gymnasiums? - New***

With the Shelter in Place for Branson being lifted, the Branson School district will be using the following guidelines regarding facility use. These guidelines are based on Governor Parson's recovery plan for the state of Missouri and recommendations by the Missouri State Athletic Association for May 2020.

- All Indoor Facilities will remain closed until June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Outdoor facilities will open up on May 16<sup>th</sup> for practices, no games. The day after the 2019-2020 school year has officially ended. Practices need to be scheduled through the High School Athletic Office.
- Groups can be no larger than 15 total people (includes coaches and sponsors).
- Social Distancing guidelines need to be followed.

Further updates and guidelines for June and the rest of the summer will be provided as we receive guidance from our governing bodies.

### ***Will School Board elections still be held on April 7, 2020?***

Per Governor Parson, all municipal elections have been moved to June 2, 2020.

## **Family and Community Questions**

### ***While school is closed, how can I retrieve my student's personal items? - Updated***

Based upon guidance from the CDC and the Taney County Health Department, ***drive-thru pick-up of student items will be available at all buildings from 9:00am to 3:00pm each day on May 19th, 20th, and 21st.*** To ensure the safety and protection of all, students and parents will not be allowed to enter the buildings. Pick-up systems will consist of staff members radioing from the drive-thru lane into the building, and "Runners" will find the appropriate bag(s) and deliver them to the car lane. ***Building Principals will be sending out more detailed information regarding their specific buildings and campuses.***

### ***How do I enroll my kindergarten-age child for the 2020-2021 academic year?***

Branson Public Schools are excited to welcome and register Kindergarten students for the 2020-2021 academic year. The first day of kindergarten is an important day in a child's life. However, before leaping into the new school year, Branson teachers and families need to partner now with a few small steps to ensure a smooth first day of school for everyone. For registration information, use this [link](#).. It's as easy as 1-2-3.

### ***Are we enrolling new students for the 2019-2020 year in the district during this time of school closure?***

Yes. Per DESE, we will enroll new students in our district. We are using the [self-registration feature](#) in SIS for new families in Branson. To enroll as a **new** family in our district, follow the directions on this [google doc](#). A new family means none of the students in the family are currently attending any of the schools in the district or none of the students have ever been enrolled in the district. If you are not considered a "new family" enrollment, then please contact **Angela Torix** at [torixa@branson.k12.mo.us](mailto:torixa@branson.k12.mo.us) for help with re-enrolling your student. She will be receiving/sending needed documents by email to the enrolling parent and will also be in communication via email with buildings when a new student enrolls.

### ***Have any of Branson's food or childcare volunteers tested positive for the COVID-19 virus?***

No. According to the Taney County Health Department, district employees who have volunteered in the areas of food distribution and/or childcare are not among any of the confirmed cases of the COVID-19 virus in the county. Extreme safety precautions are taken to ensure the health and welfare of all involved with food distribution and daycare procedures.

## Community Resources

### ***What resources (food, mental health, PAT, etc.) are available to help families during this difficult time?***

Branson Schools social workers are available to assist families during this difficult time. They can help connect families to resources in the community that would best fit their needs. You can reach the social workers by emailing them at [lf@branson.k12.mo.us](mailto:lf@branson.k12.mo.us) or by calling their office at 417-336-1854. [Linked in this document](#) are just a few of the many community and faith-based groups that are providing support for children and families in need to help us bridge the gap.

### ***What is the district's plan to provide students with access to nutrition services? - Updated***

The district is able to feed all students 18 years of age and under with free Grab-and-Go meals while the district is closed. Free Grab-and-Go meals being delivered to [11 locations throughout the district](#), will end on **May 15th**. During the week of May 18th, meal pick-up services will be provided at Buchanan Elementary from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30, **Monday-Wednesday-Friday**. May 18th-22nd will be the final week of food distribution. Free breakfast and lunch will begin again in July when summer school starts at Buchanan Elementary and Branson High School.

### ***How is the district supporting health care professionals? - Updated***

Branson Public Schools has been honored to partner with Cox Branson, Mercy Clinics, Jordan Valley, and Burrell Behavioral Health to provide childcare for healthcare providers and first responders. **The last day for medical childcare will be May 15th.**

## Teaching and Learning: PreK through Elementary

### ***Week of May 11th - No Assignments / Final Check-in - New***

During the week of May 11th no new learning tasks will be assigned to students. However, all teachers are being asked to conduct a final check-in with each family. Teachers will share information regarding changes to food distribution, summer school dates and registration, and school pick-up procedures.

### ***Will the district continue to provide learning packets while school is closed?***

The final learning packets will be mailed on Monday, May 11, 2020.

## Teaching and Learning: Secondary (7-12)

### ***Week of May 11th - No Assignments / Final Check-in - New***

During the week of May 11th no new learning tasks will be assigned to students. However, all teachers are being asked to conduct a final check-in with each family. Teachers will share information regarding changes to food distribution, summer school dates and registration, and school pick-up procedures.

## Secondary Assessment

### ***How has school closures affected my students' state assessments, A+ and graduation requirements?***

Please visit the [link](#) to learn more about specific assessment, A+ and graduation changes from the state.

## Special Services

### ***How will we hold IEP/504 meetings while school is closed?***

Annual IEP/504 due dates are NOT extended due to temporary school closure. As has always been the case, the 60-day evaluation timeline between parent consent and eligibility determination can be extended by the number of days students are out of school. The Process Coordinators and special education/504 case managers are working to conduct required IEP/504 meetings via telephone or teleconferencing.

***How will students with disabilities receive “services” while school is closed?***

Because the district is offering educational opportunities for all students (online, printed packets, etc.), students with disabilities must receive appropriate accommodations and modifications to any work provided. Special education case managers are in communication with parents and students about their needs, but general educators should also implement accommodations and modifications when “assigning” work. Although special education “services” do not look the same as usual, teachers and therapists are sending home appropriate work to allow students with significant needs to continue progressing toward their IEP goals.