

**Branson Public Schools
District Closure
Update May 14th, 2020**

Questions and Answers

As the 2019-2020 academic year comes to close, we reflect on what has been accomplished not just this school year, but the last eight weeks and the heroic efforts of the district staff to provide opportunities for students. Over the last two months, Branson teachers have demonstrated their dedication by staying connected to students using new and innovative technology tools, packing and delivering over 150,000 meals and providing care for children of healthcare providers and first responders.

When we started the year, we talked about HOPE and how one teacher, one conversation and one word of encouragement can change the path of a child. I challenged you to provide HOPE as we entered the new year. None of us had any idea how much HOPE would be provided to our community by our district. As a father, community member and your superintendent, I extend my heartfelt thanks. I'm proud of you, the staff and the administrative team for pulling together during these uncertain times. Together, we have navigated a path that put students and families first. #WeAreBranson

In the coming weeks, the administrative team will continue to meet and consult with public health professionals, along with state and national organizations, as we plan for summer school. Safety will be our top priority when determining if adjustments need to be made when we reopen school this fall. For now, we can't thank you enough for what you did to support our students this year, especially this spring. We wish everyone a happy, healthy summer. Further communication will be sent by your building principals and through Chalk Talk.

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

<p><u>School Calendar</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New - Retirement Celebration <p><u>Community Resources Food Distribution / Childcare</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated - Food Distribution: Drive Thru <p><u>Family and Community Questions</u></p>	<p><u>Teaching and Learning: PreK-Elementary</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New - 4th Quarter Grades <p><u>Teaching and Learning: Secondary (7-12)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New - Term 6 Grades
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School Calendar

When will we be celebrating our retiring teachers? - New

The district will host a reception for retiring staff on Wednesday, July 29th, at 3:00 p.m. at Branson High School. Please join us as we celebrate these amazing educators for their dedication and commitment to our students and community.

Are Branson Schools and District Offices open to the public?

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. Offices will be closed on Memorial Day. Lobbies and offices will not be open to the public until further notice.

Community Update 5/14/20 @ 10:30 a.m.

Will the extended closure change Summer School dates?

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

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| ● 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) |

What are the guidelines for facility usage of District fields and gymnasiums?

With the Shelter in Place order 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 High School Activities Association.

May 2020

- All Indoor Facilities will remain closed until June 1st.
- Outdoor facilities will open up on May 16th 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?

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.

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.

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 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?

During the week of May 18th, meal pick-up services will be provided at Buchanan Elementary from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., ***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.

Teaching and Learning: PreK through Elementary

What will 4th quarter grades look like for PK-6 students? - New

Due to the COVID-19 crisis and that the majority of elementary grades are composed of teacher observation, student demonstration and assessment, Branson Public Schools will not issue a fourth quarter report card or fourth quarter grades. If you have specific questions, please contact your teacher.

Teaching and Learning: Secondary (7-12)

What will Term 6 grades look like for 7-12th students? - New

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, 7-12th grade teachers adopted a "help not hurt" philosophy where students were allowed to submit any missing assignments to term 5 and complete term 6 assignments. We recognize not everyone had internet access during this time so assignments were only used if they increased the students second semester grade. If you have specific questions, please contact your teacher.