



BYRAM HILLS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

10 TRIPP LANE ARMONK, NY 10504

October 23, 2020

To the Byram Hills School Community,

Byram Hills is now finishing the 8th week of school - and we all continue to work hard to keep our school doors open. I am proud of our community and our staff for the individual accountability that I see every day to keep everyone safe.

With the upcoming winter/ inclement weather season, holidays, and college students returning home, the District has considered how we can continue to support learning for students when not in school buildings.

First, the District is addressing the closure of schools due to weather by trying a Snow Day Pilot permitted by the New York State Education Department. In the event that school must close due to the weather in the 2020-2021 school year, teachers will provide asynchronous learning opportunities for students in grades K-12 in Google Classroom so that learning continues. This is a pilot program. The rationale for the pilot and its implementation may be found below. We will collect data on the pilot, and determine its value for future years. If students learn asynchronously, then the days are counted as a day of instruction on the school calendar.

Next, the District is addressing learning for individual students who may need to quarantine now or over the next few weeks or months, whether post-travel to locations identified as restricted per the [NYS COVID-19 Travel Advisory](#), due to siblings returning from college, or for other COVID-19 related personal reasons. Our schools will remain open every day. Individual students who are not coming to school in grades K-5 for quarantine purposes will follow the asynchronous learning opportunities through Google Classroom. Individual students who are not coming to school in grades 6-12 for quarantine purposes will join the remote learners. This plan supports the learning dispositions for each grade level regarding asynchronous or remote learning and will help with the continuum of instruction for your child. If your child will be learning asynchronously or remotely, please send an email to the attendance secretary in your building to indicate that they will be asynchronous or remote:

comanhillattendance@byramhills.net

wampusattendance@byramhills.net

hccattendance@byramhills.net

bhhsattendance@byramhills.net

In the event we need to shut down a whole school or grade level for quarantine, building principals will send parents of K-12 students the remote learning plan.

Thank you for your continued efforts as a school community to provide our students with a safe educational learning environment.

Sincerely,

Jen Lamia, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools



BYRAM HILLS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SNOW DAY PILOT PROGRAM

2020-2021

BACKGROUND

The NYS Education Department established a Snow Day Pilot Program in September 2020 with the following [memo](#):

As part of the Department's ongoing efforts to provide districts with flexibility in meeting local needs during the pandemic, the Department is establishing a one-year pilot to enable school districts, at district option, and consistent with each district's reopening educational plan, to pivot to remote instruction to provide continuity of instruction on what would otherwise be a day of school closure due to a snow emergency. This pilot is in effect for the 2020-21 school year, after which the Department will review the outcome of the pilot in determining whether to continue this flexibility in subsequent school years.

RATIONALE

Students have been provided access to classroom resources and material via Google Classroom, ClassLink, and websites. In short, faculty and students are currently prepared for asynchronous learning in the case of an emergency school closing. Thus, the District is positioned to pilot an asynchronous snow day program this year.

CONSIDERATIONS

There are both advantages, possible disadvantages, and questions to consider in order to implement and evaluate the snow day pilot program.

Advantages:

- Maintains continuity of learning for students.
- Maintains curriculum sequence.
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Disadvantages:

- Students and faculty may not have access to technology if a snow day is called without early notice.
- Power outages may prevent families and faculty from accessing curriculum materials.

Questions to consider:

- How do we ensure faculty are prepared with asynchronous lessons in advance?
- How can we be certain faculty and students have access to technology?
- What occurs if faculty members do not have power, and as a result, cannot post assignments?
- What occurs if families lose power, and as a result, students cannot access assignments?



IMPLEMENTATION

The proposed Snow Day Pilot Program will be implemented during the 2020-2021 school year in the following manner:

- Should the Superintendent need to close schools due to weather conditions, as per [policy 8134](#) (Emergency Closings, Delays, and Dismissals), the instructional program will continue asynchronously.
- The faculty will post asynchronous instructional activities for students to complete during the day.
- Students will be expected to complete assigned work.
- Assistant principals will take attendance by asking students/families to complete a survey at the end of the day. An option will include that attendance was not possible due to technology availability/power outages.
- Should a student have an excused absence, parents should email the attendance officer at their child's school.

To prepare in advance, faculty will:

- Develop plans to be ready for asynchronous instruction during snow days.
- Post activities, instructions, and other relevant information, in their Google Classroom or webpages on or before the snow day.

The administration will:

- Communicate the snow day pilot program expectations to the parent community, faculty, staff, and students.
- Coordinate the snow day plans with faculty.
- Develop a survey for evaluation of the pilot program to administer to families and faculty following the remote snow day.

EVALUATION

Following the asynchronous day, the District will administer a survey to faculty and families and will review and evaluate the data with the BHAA, BHTA, and the Board of Education.

Let's hope for continued warm weather!