

Dear TBA Families,

**As you know, BPS has closed all of our schools effective Tuesday, March 17th until Monday, April 27th.** It is completely up to you and your family if you want to send your student on Monday, March 16th. The goal of Monday is for students to pick up any necessary items that they have in school and/or borrow a computer (see below) if needed. If you would like to bring in your student just for chromebook pick up, that is totally acceptable too. As of Tuesday, March 17th, there are no students on campus, no activities will take place in the building, and no teaching staff will be reporting to the office. **However, we will be supporting at home learning with computer-based lessons and activities.**

First and most importantly, this requires that all students have access to a computer (or phone) and WiFi. We will help with both!

### **Borrowing a Computer:**

**If you NEED to borrow a chromebook, we will be lending our chromebooks, starting Monday, March 16th**, to any student who needs one during this time. In order to get the chromebook, students will need to come to TechBoston Academy between the hours listed below.

Parents do not need to come with students to get the chromebook but we either need the student to bring back this signed permission slip [Chromebook Permission Sign Out sheet](#), or a parent/guardian to send an email to their grade level SSD (listed below) member with the following text:

**“I, (*insert your name*), give my child, (*insert child’s name*), permission to check out a Chromebook from TechBoston Academy during the extended school closure. By giving my permission, I understand my child is responsible for the device that has been assigned to him/her/them. I understand that my child has agreed to store the Chromebook in a safe space when not in use, be kind and safe online, not have liquids or food near the Chromebook, and not damage, deface, or remove the Chromebook inventory tag(s). I understand that my child acknowledges it is inappropriate use AND against the law to violate copyright laws; plagiarize; send, access, upload, download, or distribute explicit material. If the laptop is lost, stolen, or damaged, my child will immediately report it to his/her/their SSD member. I understand the Chromebook can be monitored or assessed at any time. I understand that all internet activity leaves a digital trail and I should NOT assume that all material or data on the Chromebook is private or confidential.”**

Additionally, students will need to bring their backpacks to carry the chromebook home with them.

### **Chromebook Pick-Up Times**

#### **Monday, March 16th**

**9:00 am - 11:00 am - Grades 9-12**

**11:30 am - 12:30 pm - Grades 6-8 and SEI**

#### **Wednesday, March 18th**

**9:00 am - 11:00 am - All students**

#### **Thursday, March 19th**

**9:00 am - 11:00 am - All students**

If you do not have internet at home, **Comcast is offering families 2 months of free internet** - no contract, no questions asked - [Sign Up for Free WiFi](#). If you need help signing up, please contact Jen Nicol at [jnicol@bostonpublicschools](mailto:jnicol@bostonpublicschools) or (857) 288-8114. She will walk you through the application and make sure you are all set.

### **At Home Learning:**

Beginning **Tuesday, March 17th** daily web-based materials will be available for students on [Google Classroom](#). We are asking each teacher to plan daily lessons each week. Students should be logging in daily to check each of their specific classes and do the assigned tasks they are given. This means students will receive daily lessons, assignments, and videos from their teachers. In addition, teachers will be holding class discussions and individual help time through Google Classroom. Your student's Google Classroom can be accessed at [classroom.google.com](https://classroom.google.com) using their BPS email and password. Learn how to login by checking out our guides below!

- [How to Access Google Classroom from Home](#) (website in English)
- [How to Join Google Classroom](#) (video in English)
- [How to Join Google Classroom](#) (video in Spanish/Español)
- [How to Join Google Classroom](#) (video in Portuguese/Portugués)
- [How to Join Google Classroom](#) (video in French/Français)

Additionally, more learning apps can be found in *Clever*, a “portal” with apps used by your student's school or classroom teacher(s). Your student's Clever portal can be accessed at [www.bostonpublicschools.org/backpack](http://www.bostonpublicschools.org/backpack) using their BPS email and password. Need more support? Check out the docs below!

- [Clever for Home](#) (Google Doc)
- [Clever para Las Familias](#) (Google Doc)
- [Clever Login Tutorial](#) (interactive video)

Do you have any additional questions about digital learning? Visit the BPS [Digital Learning Resources website](#) for more information.

There are additional online learning resources here - [Free online learning resources](#).

If you need technology help, please contact the OIIT Help Desk by email or phone if you have questions or concerns about continued learning:

*Help Desk Phone Number:* 617-635-9200

*Email Help Desk:* [Technology@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto:Technology@bostonpublicschools.org)

**It is critical during this time that students remain learning. Please make sure that is happening daily throughout this long closure.**

### **Social Emotional Support**

Be mindful that children sense our emotions and need adults to establish a sense of calm. Do something together as a family outside such as taking a walk or playing a game. Use age-appropriate language and talk with your children about the time out of school as a time for the building to be cleaned and ready for their return. Refer to this letter from Dr. Cassellius, [Talking to Students about COVID-19](#), for further guidance.

Our Student support department is always available to help and support students (and families in need). Please reach out to them at any time throughout this closure!

All email addresses are [@bostonpublicschools.org](#)

<b>Antwain Sheffield</b>	<b>Student Support Grade 6</b>	<b>asheffield</b>	<b>(617) 804-5635</b>
<b>April Brunelle</b>	<b>Student Support Grade 7</b>	<b>abrunelle</b>	<b>(857) 309-3490</b>
<b>Alise Murray (Dumais)</b>	<b>Student Support Grade 8</b>	<b>amurray2</b>	<b>(781) 435-7573</b>
<b>Andrea Boeri</b>	<b>Student Support Grade 9</b>	<b>aboeri</b>	<b>(617) 286-4381</b>
<b>Lance Mitchell</b>	<b>Student Support Grade 10</b>	<b>lmitchell</b>	<b>(781) 277-4970</b>
<b>Milord Mirville</b>	<b>Student Support Grade 11</b>	<b>mmirville</b>	<b>(617) 982-3113</b>
<b>Jamari Jones</b>	<b>Student Support Grade 12</b>	<b>jjones14</b>	<b>(617) 297-8649</b>
<b>Jessica Descartes</b>	<b>Student Support SEI</b>	<b>Jdescartes</b>	<b>(857) 271-2185</b>

The best way to contact the school during this time is **through email at** [nvernazza@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto:nvernazza@bostonpublicschools.org) or [klove@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto:klove@bostonpublicschools.org).

We know there are still more questions than answers and we are working as hard as possible to get answers to any questions you may have. For now we are planning until April 27th. No information, yet, on MCAS testing, AP testing, graduation or anything coming in May and June. We promise to pass along everything we have as we get it.

Thank you for supporting your children's learning as we navigate this challenge as a community.

Please reach out for anything. Be safe and well.

Ms. Vernazza