



BRINDLEE MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

"Home of the Lions"



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Dear Families,

We truly appreciate your patience and cooperation with us over the last couple of weeks. Our staff worked extra hard preparing curriculum and packets for the remainder of this school year. We carefully followed the Marshall County Plan that was sent out by Dr. Cindy Wigley. This plan contains the following items that apply directly to our school and situation:

- Each family was contacted and a survey was conducted to check on your well-being, internet, and device needs. Chromebooks were issued to all students who indicated they did not have an appropriate device. If you indicated you needed internet access or a hotspot we gave you the information to acquire these services or we turned your name in for a Hot Spot provided by the School District.
- Teachers and our Instructional Coach worked diligently to develop a plan that focuses on high-quality work to complete the critical standards that had not been covered prior to our release.
- According to our District Plan: *What we do over the next five weeks is important, but what is most important is securing a jump-start for the next school year. Before the next school year starts, the plan is to have a couple of weeks for students' skills to be assessed and a review to be conducted.*
- Last week we voted as a district to determine the best way to handle grading from this point forward. The following is the option that we are following: *Highest 9-week average (1st, 2nd, OR 3rd 9-week average) as 4th 9-weeks average. If students would like enrichment activities to be graded from this point forward as the fourth 9-weeks average, this is acceptable. Teachers will communicate with students regarding this decision.*
- The District decision on grading does not mean that what we are providing you isn't important; it is of the utmost importance. It is important because it will determine student standing when school starts back in the fall. Per the District Plan: *Each year, educators begin the school year with review in an effort to address the "summer slide" in proficiency. While classroom learning cannot be fully replicated, our staff is committed to providing the best resources and services possible to help close the gap for all students and prevent as much as possible an increased "summer slide" of proficiency in critical standards over the next four months.*
- Our entire school team wants you to understand that we have and are continuing to work very hard to provide you with the resources, materials, and guidance you need to ensure your student is prepared for the next grade level. Our goal is to focus only on high-quality work to complete the determined critical standards. Enrichment activities have also been provided to you and are labeled as such. Any item labeled as a test will be considered a "measure of student understanding and achievement" and will be a guideline for you going forward as to whether the student needs to go back over the material and/or contact the teacher for further guidance. You are more than welcome to send pictures of student work to teachers to evaluate for guidance going forward.

- Technology Component: While the technology component is “not required” we do ask that you use it if you have the capability at home to do so. Teachers will be conducting online classes and student competitions using the various web-based sources provided. . This component could be used as a resource throughout the summer to help maintain student growth. Teachers will make every effort to be in contact with each student weekly. Send any phone or address updates to hollawayah@marshallk12.org
- Do not take pictures or videos during ZOOM or Google Classroom meetings. We take student safety and confidentiality very seriously. Individual teachers may post pictures as they know who can and cannot be published.
- We understand that not all districts are following the same plan, but we are doing what is best for our school and our students. We have worked extremely hard this year to yield positive student growth and achievement and the thought of those achievements “sliding” away devastates us.
- Per our District Plan: *What we do over the next five weeks is important, but what is most important is securing a jump-start for the next school year. Before the next school year starts, the plan is to have a couple of weeks for students’ skills to be assessed and a review to be conducted.* After this assessment period we will determine individual student plans, grade placements, and interventions going forward. Data shows that students who are below grade level in Elementary School are more likely to be High School Drop-Outs; we are providing you with every resource possible to make sure our students do not fall behind.
- **Our school-wide office hours are as follows:**
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 3:00-7:00
Tuesday and Thursday 10:00-2:00
Each teacher may set different hours. Office hours are the times set aside for answering emails, returning calls, etc. We are making every effort to communicate and stay in touch.
- It is very important that each of you join the following **REMIND** classes that pertain to your students’ grade level. Join your grade level, even if you are already in an individual class. This is how you will get schoolwide information.
3rd Grade:
Text 81010 and enter @3a4gfdh and hit send.
4th Grade:
Text 81010 and enter @c6fc8g and hit send.
5th Grade:
Text 81010 and enter @ad2a99 and hit send.
- Our Web Address is <http://bmes.marshallk12.org/> and this is where you can find the latest pertinent information and contact information.
- Follow **Brindle Mountain Elementary School** on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

We ask that you email us with any questions and/or concerns. We get many social media notifications and may miss something that is posted in that format. REMEMBER, students are only asked to do 2.5 hours of work for the whole week. They do not have to finish the entire packet in one week; contact individual teachers for advice on the best guidelines for time management. Please add the appropriate **REMIND** classes listed above. We appreciate you and look forward to working side by side over the next few weeks!

Stay Home, Stay Safe, Stay Healthy,
Amanda Hollaway

