

Dear Brookline High School Parents, Guardians, and Caretakers,

By now, you should have received Interim Superintendent Ben Lummis's email from yesterday afternoon (Friday 3/20) which included a joint statement between the Brookline School Committee and Brookline Educators Union. These important parties came to agreement late this week on how our public schools will function during the COVID-19 closure.

We write this afternoon to review and reflect on this past week and to share plans and next steps for the Monday 3/23 launching of our BHS on-line learning program, **United Mind Workers**, that will help structure continued student learning and growth, challenge and support, during this period of school closure.

#### Larger Context: Last Week's Priorities and Challenges

Over the past week, high school leadership has been actively engaged with BEU and PSB leaders to create the architecture of what this interim period will look like (i.e., 3/23-~4/6). We also focused on remaining in communication with our students, sending Aspen/X2 and Canvas messages on Tuesday 3/17 and Wednesday 3/18. Within these messages, the two of us shared important updates, gave advice and guidance for staying safe and healthy, and offered some basic ideas for remaining tethered to learning, the life of the mind, and school. We forwarded these messages to parents, guardians, and caretakers via BlackBoard.

We realize that for many these communications and resources were not as robust as students and families have come to expect from Brookline High School. Please understand that transforming an educational environment from school to online is not as simple as holding the Zoom/Google Hangout/Skype chats we all have become experts in this week. BHS has long maintained that the essential part of the school experience is the interaction and response that happens inside a classroom between and among classmates and educators.

We wish this all had occurred more quickly and assure you that throughout last week our high school colleagues were working to create resources, determine how best to continue learning. We also ask that families understand that last week our faculty and staff were also simultaneously navigating our own challenges as we transitioned into this unprecedented time of school closure, working from home, and trying to support our kids as they operate without the favored domains of school and social life available to them. This is a very human, trying time, and we are all trying and human in the work we do with and for students at BHS.

#### On-line Learning: 3/23-4/6 and Perhaps Beyond

As we enter this unprecedented second full week of closure, we begin the intermediate phase of our work by following guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

(DESE) that remote learning is not intended to replicate the work we normally do with students when school is in session. This means we are not introducing new curricula or grading assessments. Rather, our focus will be on providing enrichment opportunities that allow students to remain engaged in learning, continue to be connected to high school faculty and staff, and deepen their exposure to previously taught material. In summary, this interim period of remote learning is not school. We expect students to engage in and benefit from this work so that they are ready to return to school with their skills sharp. These resources should also help students and families structure their time and tend to learning, study, and practice throughout the weeks to come.

### Next Steps

The two of us will communicate with all BHS students via Aspen/X2 and Canvas early this afternoon, sharing important beliefs and details in our distance learning program, **United Mind Workers of Brookline High School**. Brookline High School educators, even us administrator types, are hard at work to ready the **United Mind Workers** site. These pieces will be live on Monday 3/23 at 8:00am. We will share this student communication with all BHS parents, guardians, and caretakers via BlackBoard.

As we proceed with these plans, we continue to be focused on educational equity during a time that is challenging for all. PSB continues to offer [Grab and Go meals](#) to families on free and reduced lunch and [Chromebooks](#) to those who need access to a digital device. Parents, guardians, and caretakers should use these PSB links to seek assistance; high school and district custodial, food service, and administrative staff will continue to aid in these important programs in the days and weeks to come.

For now, we appreciate your patience and support. We admittedly may be less responsive via email currently as we work to ready plans and structures for Monday, when United Mind Workers launches a new learning journey for those of us at old Brookline High School

Brookline High School educators, even us administrator types, are hard at work to ready the **United Mind Workers**. These pieces will be live on Monday 3/23 at 8:00am.

Wishing you and your families health, safety, and love.

Sincerely,

Anthony Meyer  
Head of School

Hal Mason  
Assistant Head of School