

Dear Brookline High School Students,

Greetings from Brookline High School. It is Sunday and raining. The weather fits the bleakness we sometimes feel within this school closure. Beyond sharing that we join more than 300 faculty and staff members in missing the 2080 of you Brookline High School Warriors, we write this afternoon to:

- Remind you of your student support people at BHS;
- Update you on plans for this coming United Mind Workers week (3/30-4/3);
- And, share some of the work we are doing to prepare for the additional period of school closure (4/6-5/4) announced this past week by the governor and state commissioner of education.

Student Support

We want to remind each and all of you that there are [many adults](#) at Brookline High School whose job it is to look after and take care of you. We generally do this work in our classrooms and offices, cafeteria and library, hallways and open spaces. This school closure changes the way we work with you all but not the relationships we have built or assistance we can offer.

[Check Aspen/X2](#) if you want to confirm your guidance counselor and dean or program coordinator. These important student support people will continue to reach out to students and groups of students (e.g., by grade). Please also feel free to reach out via email to your dean and guidance counselor, especially if you need help or guidance. Email addresses for all BHS staff can be found [HERE](#).

United Mind Workers, 3/30-4/3

Our plan is to continue the United Mind Workers approach to distance learning through this next week, Monday 3/30 through Friday 4/3. We believe this is working well for most students and also needs some clarifying and structuring. A few specifics to keep in mind:

- The 3-4 hours we suggested students should be working on *each* of their English, math, science, social studies, and world language classes were intended to be *upper limits*.
- Each department and course will be updating the assignments using the same shared google document as last week, all of which should be connected to the United Mind Workers site. There is no need to log in exactly at 8am Monday - just know that the information and assignments on those forms will be updated at some point before noon on Monday.
- This distance learning approach requires executive functioning skills and habits that many students are still developing. Please use our [Academic Help Center](#) on the UMW site and ask for help. It is important to take stock of your work for the week, to plan and structure it, and to see where you need help and how you will ask for it.
- Our faculty and staff also realize this is a challenging time that requires flexibility and compassion; if we are aware of where you need help, we will work individually and collectively to assist you.
- While we will show flexibility and compassion it is our firm and clear expectation that students complete and submit only their own work. Academic integrity remains critical.

Brookline High School, 4/6-5/1 and Perhaps Beyond

As you likely know, this past Wednesday Governor Baker announced that Massachusetts schools will be closed at least until Monday 5/4. The state Commissioner of Education then issued guidance for schools. At BHS, we are working on how our United Mind Workers approach will shift now that we know we will be out of school at least for an additional month and quite possibly until the end of the year. More specifically, we are working with school leaders to discuss how credits, grades, schedule, timeline and other elements of BHS will work during a closure that will last at least until early May and maybe for the year. Our aim is to share more specific decisions and plans by next Sunday 4/5.

In addition to these matters, we are working on the many events and activities that we have planned for this spring. From the late April awards ceremony to commencement, from athletics to clubs, we are working on determining how to continue to celebrate and develop community even within this period of separation and disruption.

2020/2021 School Year

While this year has introduced a level of uncertainty none of us has experienced before, we still must go ahead and plan for the school year that will begin in September. Please make sure you have completed your **course requests** in the [Aspen Portal](#) and reviewed the course recommendations issued by your teachers by the end of this week, Friday April 3. Instructions can be found on the BHS homepage. Guidance counselors will be reviewing your selections over the coming weeks.

Some Specific Things We Miss

- Week B Thursdays when the two of us staff the 115 library during morning Collaboration Time and greet the many who come for morning study and quiet conversation.
- Friday afternoons on Greenough Street after dismissal when so many of you stand around, socialize, and then head your separate ways on foot, bike, bus, train, and car.
- Visits to the UAB and see student work and students working in the arts, engineering, computer science, business, and so much more.
- Lunch duty at 115 Greenough and OLS when we see several hundred of you at a time, eating, talking, and cleaning up after yourselves. Many of you offer thanks as you leave the cafeteria.

We wish you a restful evening and a good start to the week. Please reach out to a teacher or student support person if you need particular help as we transition into this second United Mind Workers week. We are all navigating this together and hearing where you need more guidance and support is helpful for us as we move forward and make improvements.

Sincerely,

Mr. Meyer and Mr. Mason (photographed at a time before social distancing protocols; imagine us at least six feet apart)

