Supporting Local, National, and Global Efforts to stem the spread of COVID19.

- Billings is closed until authorities give the green light to reopen. Our hope is that this will happen before April 24, but that is the current planned date.
- While a few administrators are working from the school, we are minimizing the coming and going from our building as much as possible.
- Custodians and cleaning teams are continuing their work, using this opportunity to clean deeply and thoroughly in anticipation of our eventual return.
- We have had no reports of COVID-19 cases or exposures in our community.

Considering the well-being of our children, staff, and families.

- Though we are learning that children are not getting this virus at the same rates as adults, we recognize all our roles in containing the virus. With students, staff, and family members in high-risk categories, we are especially aware of our need to protect them from exposure.
- Many staff with school aged children and babies/toddlers are especially impacted by school closures. We are working to support these staff members during this time.
- Hourly employees will be paid their anticipated income.

Providing social-emotional support to all of our students.

- Billings is a community built on relationships. Adolescents are heavily impacted by changes in relationships, and in these uncertain times, those relationships may seem at risk.
- Dean Rob is very focused on providing social-emotional support during the closure. Please read his letter here.
  - Rob is available daily to speak with students online over Google Meet, through email, or by phone.
  - We know that students drop in to talk to Rob all day long and we want to provide them with continued opportunities to do so.
- Advisories are an important conduit for relationship building and we know the importance of the bonds that have been built between advisors and students, as well as the bonds built between students in an advisory.
  - Advisories will meet daily at 8:30 to provide continuity, an opportunity to share and talk with one another, and support for planning the academic day.
  - Advisors remain available to students through Google Meet, email, or phone.

Ensuring that our families and children in need of critical services are being assisted.

- Billings is working closely with all of our families in need of critical services. We are working one on one with these families to minimize the disproportionate impact that the closure may have.
- We know that every family will approach this situation differently. We are aware that some of our students will be home alone or caring for younger siblings. We are actively working to support these students in any way we can.
Teachers will modify expectations (volume, due dates, procedures) for students on an individual basis.

Continuing to provide a Billings education for our students.

- Billings closed on Monday, March 9 to allow teachers to meet and begin devising a full distance learning plan. We had prior technology in place to build from and had begun planning two weeks earlier. On Wednesday, March 11, we announced that the building would close and we would transition to online learning. We used Thursday and Friday to finalize plans.
- Distance Learning begins on Monday, March 16. You can read our Distance Learning Plan (DLP) [here](#).
- We will continue to update and tweak our DLP as we go.
- A Billings education is the antithesis of a sit-in-front-of-the-computer education, and it is our intention to make this experience as “Billings-y” as we can.
  - Classes are being offered synchronously, or “live”, at least once a week. This will provide an opportunity for students to interact with teachers and with one another at least three times a day (including advisory).
  - Teachers are continuing to confer via Google Meet for weekly Grade Level Advisor’s Meetings. They will discuss individual class plans, workload variety and balance, and ideas for continuing project based and expeditionary education, as well as discussing any students of concern.
  - Group work continues to be important and we are helping students know how to complete group work in an online environment.
  - Assignments will involve “moving and doing”, just as they would in a normal Billings classroom environment.
  - Teachers will continue to be available during office hours for one-one student meetings.

Minimizing the economic impact of businesses that depend on Billings.

- It is our goal to continue our business relationships as much as possible. For example, rather than laying off cleaning staff, we will rearrange for them to address deeper cleaning tasks usually reserved for breaks and summer.
- Although we have had to cancel a trip (so far) and postpone the musical, it is our intention that the “show will go on”... at some point. We hope to reschedule events if at all possible.