

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to explain Blue Ridge School's plan for distance learning which will commence on Thursday, March 19th. While this will be a new experience for our students and teachers, I am confident that we will be able to continue all of our courses in this new format, and that your students will continue to make progress on their paths toward success in college and life. We have an incredibly talented faculty that does outstanding work in our classrooms each day, and I have no doubt that they will be just as impressive online.

As we began to consider how we would move our teaching and learning online, one thing we decided on quickly was that structure, routine, and consistency would be important. We also wanted to make access easy across as many time zones as possible. Therefore, we created a school day that runs from 10AM-2:45PM (EDT). Every class will meet virtually for 35 minutes every day in the same order. Students do not need any of their textbooks or other course materials with them at this point. We are assuming that all of those materials were left at school. Teachers will provide digital copies of anything students might be required to read.

There is a big difference between "distance learning" and "online learning." We will be doing the former. Distance learning seeks to replicate, in many ways, the feel and structure of an on campus, in-classroom experience by simply substituting video conferencing for in-class instruction. We will rely on Google Classroom, a platform with which our students are already very familiar, for teachers to send, collect, grade and return assignments. Additionally, every teacher will use Zoom to facilitate video conferencing with each of his or her classes. Starting on March 19th our daily schedule will look like the example below. By Tuesday morning you and your student will receive via email his updated daily schedule.

Example Distance Learning Student Schedule					
Blue Ridge School					
Student, Blue Ridge					
Year: 2019-2020: SPRING					
Grade: 09					
Course	Instructor	Section	Zoom Classroom Link		
Advisory	Leary, Russell	ADV-LEA	<a href="#">Link to Mr. Leary's Zoom Advisory Session</a>		
Applied Entrepreneurship	Mackaronis, George	ENT-APP-A	<a href="#">Link to Mr. Mackaronis' Zoom Class Session</a>		
Intro to Video Editing and Motion Graphics	Burris, Michael	CSI-IVEMG-A	<a href="#">Link to Mr. Burris' Zoom Class Session</a>		
Language and Literature 1	Hogan, Anna Grey	ENG-09LL-B	<a href="#">Link to Ms. Hogan's Zoom Class Session</a>		
World History 9	Leary, Russell	HST-09WH-B	<a href="#">Link to Mr. Leary's Zoom Class Session</a>		
Geometry	Herring, Deborah	MTH-GEOM-B	<a href="#">Link to Ms. Herring's Zoom Class Session</a>		
Biology	Warren, Jack	SCI-BIO-B	<a href="#">Link to Mr. Warren's Zoom Class Session</a>		
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Period 1	ENT-APP-A 10:00AM-10:35AM (EST)	ENT-APP-A 10:00AM-10:35AM (EST)	ENT-APP-A 10:00AM-10:35AM (EST)	ENT-APP-A 10:00AM-10:35AM (EST)	ENT-APP-A 10:00AM-10:35AM (EST)
Period 2	SCI-BIO-B 10:40AM-11:15AM (EST)	SCI-BIO-B 10:40AM-11:15AM (EST)	SCI-BIO-B 10:40AM-11:15AM (EST)	SCI-BIO-B 10:40AM-11:15AM (EST)	SCI-BIO-B 10:40AM-11:15AM (EST)
Break	11:15AM-11:30AM (EST)	11:15AM-11:30AM (EST)	11:15AM-11:30AM (EST)	11:15AM-11:30AM (EST)	11:15AM-11:30AM (EST)
Period 3	HST-09WH-B 11:30AM-12:05PM (EST)	HST-09WH-B 11:30AM-12:05PM (EST)	HST-09WH-B 11:30AM-12:05PM (EST)	HST-09WH-B 11:30AM-12:05PM (EST)	HST-09WH-B 11:30AM-12:05PM (EST)
Period 4	MTH-GEOM-B 12:10PM-12:45PM (EST)	MTH-GEOM-B 12:10PM-12:45PM (EST)	MTH-GEOM-B 12:10PM-12:45PM (EST)	MTH-GEOM-B 12:10PM-12:45PM (EST)	MTH-GEOM-B 12:10PM-12:45PM (EST)
Meal Break	12:45PM-1:30PM (EST)	12:45PM-1:30PM (EST)	12:45PM-1:30PM (EST)	12:45PM-1:30PM (EST)	12:45PM-1:30PM (EST)
Period 5	CSI-IVEMG-A 1:30PM-2:05PM (EST)	CSI-IVEMG-A 1:30PM-2:05PM (EST)	CSI-IVEMG-A 1:30PM-2:05PM (EST)	CSI-IVEMG-A 1:30PM-2:05PM (EST)	CSI-IVEMG-A 1:30PM-2:05PM (EST)
Period 6	ENG-09LL-B 2:10PM-2:45PM (EST)	ENG-09LL-B 2:10PM-2:45PM (EST)	ENG-09LL-B 2:10PM-2:45PM (EST)	ENG-09LL-B 2:10PM-2:45PM (EST)	ENG-09LL-B 2:10PM-2:45PM (EST)
Break	2:45PM-3:00PM (EST)	2:45PM-3:00PM (EST)	2:45PM-3:00PM (EST)	2:45PM-3:00PM (EST)	2:45PM-3:00PM (EST)
Advisory Session		3:00PM-3:20PM (EST)		3:00PM-3:20PM (EST)	
Meeting Period	3:00PM-4:00PM (EST)	3:20PM-4:00PM (EST)	3:00PM-4:00PM (EST)	3:20PM-4:00PM (EST)	3:00PM-4:00PM (EST)

You'll notice that we maintained time for advisory groups to meet, time for extra help and 1 on 1 teacher support, and time for meetings with our college counselor and with our school counselor. Over the next few days teachers will refine their lesson and unit plans so that they will work in a distance learning context. I also wanted to let you know that we have created a "hotline" for any technical problems that you, or students, might encounter as we transition to distance learning. The email address [brshelpdesk@blueridgeschool.com](mailto:brshelpdesk@blueridgeschool.com) will be closely monitored, and a staff member will quickly address any issue that comes up.

I am certain that there are many questions at this time as we try something new, and I look forward to answering all of them. I will continue to share more information about our transition to distance learning over the coming days. I also wanted to invite you to either of two live Q & A sessions that I will hold on Tuesday. If you would like to participate, simply choose the time that will be most convenient for you. The first will happen at noon and the second at 6PM (EDT). Soon, I will send out the links that will allow you to join either meeting. I plan to talk about what our classes will look like, ways parents and guardians can support our distance learning program, how our college counseling program will adapt to fit distance learning, and any other

topics you wish to talk about. In the meantime I am always happy to answer any questions you have, feel free to reach me at [pbonds@blueridgeschool.com](mailto:pbonds@blueridgeschool.com).

Thank you for your patience and support as we try something new that allows us to put the health and safety of our community first while also allowing our classes to continue.

Sincerely,

Pete Bonds

Dean of Faculty and Academics

[pbonds@blueridgeschool.com](mailto:pbonds@blueridgeschool.com)

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