



# Bristol Township School District

Melanie Gehrens, Superintendent of Schools

October 20, 2020

Dear Bristol Township School District Community,

Online learning has been challenging for students, parents, teachers and the entire BTSD community. We applaud everyone for their resilience and perseverance this year. While we had hoped to welcome back all students more than anything, COVID-19 cases have been on the rise in Pennsylvania and Bristol Township. The District has been monitoring the Pennsylvania Department of Education's COVID-19 Early Warning Monitoring System Dashboard. Per Bucks County Department of Health on October 16, Bristol Township's data *specifically* stated the current incidence rate per 100,000 by case report date for the past 7 days is 47. This figure represents an increase from August and September. Based on this current data, the Bristol Township Board of School Directors determined its schools could not operate in a safe manner and **voted last evening to keep student instruction full-time remote**, with a reassessment on November 16, 2020.

For families that ultimately decide to continue with full-time remote instruction beyond the reassessment period, the District will offer a virtual option where students can continue instruction *with their current teacher*. **This means that fully-remote learners by choice will not be required to enroll in the Bristol Township Cyber Academy.** A survey will be forthcoming for families to indicate if their preference is to remain virtual.

At last night's meeting, the Board approved the revised [Health and Safety Plan](#) and the [Athletic Health and Safety Plan](#), which are regularly being reviewed and revised to meet current guidelines.

**Another major decision last night was the appointment of Assistant Principal Jon Craig to his new role as Principal at Truman High School, effective immediately.** This is Mr. Craig's 16th year in the District and he served as Assistant Principal at Truman since last fall. Mr. Craig's other positions in the district include Instructional Coach at Truman and Mill Creek, Social Studies Department Chair at Truman, Social Studies teacher at Truman and Armstrong, and Coach for Armstrong's wrestling, and track and field teams. Throughout his career at Truman, he coached varsity football for a total of nine years, including three years as Head Coach. We welcome Mr. Craig to his new role and wish him success!

We hope everyone stays safe and healthy as we continue to work together within a virtual learning environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melanie Gehrens".

Dr. Melanie Gehrens, Ed. D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
Bristol Township School District