

Email: 3/20/20 4:08 p.m.

Dear EBRPSS Families and Staff,

An entire week has come and gone since our governor announced a temporary closure of schools. I'd like to thank you all again for granting us the time to make sound decisions in the best interest of students and staff.

I have faith that we will overcome this, as a family and a community. When we look back on this brief period of time, it will represent just another defining moment where we revealed our strength, our teamwork, and our resiliency. Our staff and students have overcome personal loss, hurricanes and floods, and we endured. Even in the face of confusing and stressful times, our team has not lost sight of our calling to *Build the Future of Baton Rouge*. Now more than ever, you play a vital role in our team's mission.

Whether you can educate and engage children in enrichment activities or simply just offer comfort to a child who is feeling uneasy, **YOU** are your child's best teacher and **YOU** are enough. When schools reopen, our team will be focused on academic standards more than ever. But for the time being, our families have been presented with the unique gift of time. Our children grow up overnight, and before we know it, they are off to college or careers. Embrace them, love them, and rest assured that our team is working tirelessly to adapt to this temporary 'new normal' so we may continue to serve each of you.

On that note, I am humbled and honored to work with such incredible leaders. In the midst of a global crisis, our team is moving mountains. We turned dine-in cafeterias into to-go restaurants, feeding thousands of children. We organized coordinated efforts to maintain district operations ensuring all full-time staff could be paid, and we sourced materials and resources for children to continue to expand their minds during the closure. Each of these transitions and pivots were made with a moment's notice. It is pushing us out of the box and allowing us to flex our creativity. We will continue to be abstract-thinkers and explorers of new opportunities.

The next time you see them, remember to thank your child's teachers, principals, bus operators, cafeteria workers and all staff and remember to give yourself a pat on the back as well. Circumstances are changing rapidly, and we are working to answer your questions as fast as we can. There will be plenty of new information to come next week, but for now, take a deep breath, reflect on all you have overcome this week and let's try to cherish each new day we are blessed with.

Be safe, protect your loved ones and have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

Warren Drake