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Dear BCN Families,

As we enter our last week of school we are in the wake of protests for racial equality throughout our city and nation. Although we are apart, we stand by our community and are committed to doing what we can as an educational institution to fight for a more equitable world for our children.

As a next step in our learning we will be holding an open listening forum during the week of June 15th so that parents can join us in talking about how our schools can better support our communities. Look for the details on that to follow.

As we conclude the year, we remain appreciative of all the efforts made on behalf of our students in this virtual environment. While we don't yet know what school will look like in 2020-2021, we have begun our planning to serve our students.

Our Approach to Planning

The health and safety of our students and staff will be at the forefront of all decisions we make around reopening our school campuses. On June 3rd, the Department of Education released guidance for schools called [Preliminary Guidance for Phased Reopening of Pre-K-12 Schools](#). This guidance summarizes the recommendations of the Center of Disease Control and the Department of Health (DOH) so that schools may plan safely. The guidance also aligns with the DOH color phases for counties.

Although we are still reviewing this guidance, we do know that currently Philadelphia is considered Yellow and so much of our planning is taking the recommendations of this phase. This will require opening our schools initially with small group learning in order to keep everyone safe. We are planning for a blended learning environment where some education will take place in school and some will need to remain virtual. Should the color phase change to green we would be able to accommodate more students most of the time and if it turns red we will be prepared to continue to offer our students virtual learning.

We will remain in contact with you all throughout the summer and provide you with updates as we know more.

Please take a moment to read through the remainder of this email for resources, information and updates:

Social Justice Resources for Parents/Guardians:

To continue to assist parents/guardians in supporting their children, our staff has added these social justice resources and upcoming programming for your use.

[Beyond the Golden Rule: A Parent's Guide to Preventing and Responding to Prejudice](#)

[A Family Guide to Talking About Race](#)

[How to Talk to Your Children About Protests and Racism](#)

[Your Age-by-Age Guide to Talking About Race](#)

[A Parent's Guide to Talking About Race](#)

[How White Parents Can Use Media to Raise Anti-Racist Kids](#)

[Talking to Kids About Race](#)

[How to Talk About Race With Your Kids](#)

[Talking to Children After Racial Incidents](#)

[Talking to Children About Hate Incidents](#)

[Video: Talking to Kids about Racism](#)

Calendar:

- The last day of school for students is **Thursday, June 11th.**

Summer Programming: Belmont Charter Network will offer Virtual Summer Programming. Programs include Virtual Guided Reading, Cooking Lessons, Do-It-Yourself Self Care, along with Art, Dance, STEM and Fitness lessons. Each school will provide you with details on their specific programming.

BCN will also provide educational opportunities for 6th-12th graders through our Summer Learning programs: ELA, Math, and Credit Recovery. Instructional videos are also posted to our social media accounts for students who are unable to attend the lesson.

Food Distribution Center now includes a Pop Up Pantry: Beginning tomorrow, we have partnered with Turning Points for Children so that our food distribution site will also include Pop Up Pantries on the following dates:

Wednesday June 10th

Mondays: June 22, July 6, July 20, August 3, August 17 and August 30th.

Regular food and pet food distribution will continue on Monday and Thursdays for pick up from 9-12pm at the Belmont Academy (907 N. 41st Street) .

Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT)

What is Pandemic-EBT?

The Family's First Coronavirus Response Act authorized a new benefit called Pandemic EBT to help families with children who are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. The benefit will come on an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card, which is like a debit card. The benefits can only be spent on food items at any store that accepts SNAP ("food stamps"). P-EBT is a one-time payment that is intended for families to use to buy food for their children who would otherwise be receiving free or reduced-price meals if schools were open.

Which Belmont Charter School and Inquiry Charter School families are eligible for P-EBT?

All families. Since both Belmont Charter School Grades (K-11) and Inquiry Charter School are enrolled in the National School Lunch Program and participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), 100% of families enrolled in our schools are eligible for this benefit.

All Head Start families through the Community Education Alliance of West Philadelphia are also eligible since Head Start students participate in the National School Lunch food program.

Because we have the CEP designation, your child(ren) will be automatically signed up for P-EBT. Parents do not need to submit anything in order to receive this benefit.

How much in P-EBT benefits will you receive?

Households will receive \$5.70 per day per child for each missed school day. Since our schools are CEP and your child(ren) was receiving free meals when schools closed, you should receive \$370.50 for each child.

How will you get the P-EBT card?

If you are currently receiving SNAP (Food Stamps) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF/cash assistance) benefits, the state will deposit onto your current EBT card the Pandemic-EBT amount for each student who is enrolled at Belmont Charter School and/or Inquiry Charter School.

If you don't already have an EBT card, you will receive a P-EBT card in the mail with instructions on how to use it. **In order for you to receive a P-EBT card in the mail, your school must have your current address!** Please contact your school as soon as possible to ensure your address information is up to date.

When will you receive this benefit?

Households already receiving SNAP (food stamps), Medical Assistance, or TANF Cash Assistance will receive P-EBT benefits first, likely in late May. Families who will be getting a card mailed to them will likely begin receiving their benefits in June.

Questions?

Additional questions about this benefit, please reach out to the following website:

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/Coronavirus-Pandemic-EBT.aspx>

Family Support Services - These are uncertain times and we want our families to know that we are here as a resource throughout the summer. Our family support services program can help you navigate any challenges that your family may encounter during this time **including support and assistance with internet access, housing or food instability**. Please do not hesitate to reach out (267) 990-8284 and a member of our team will be glad to assist you.

Have a wonderful summer and thank you for entrusting your child with us.

Jennifer Faustman
CEO, Belmont Charter Network