

# Beecher-Dunbar-Pembine School District

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Andy Space, District Administrator

Linda Stankevich, Principal

May 18, 2020

Dear Senator Tiffany, and Representative Mursau,

I hope this letter finds you, your family, and your colleagues well. I would like to provide you with an update from the Beecher-Dunbar-Pembine School District (BDP) as we address the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a small rural school district in Northeast Wisconsin serving 250 students, I want to convey clearly that during the mandated closure, teaching and learning has carried on daily. Our staff is providing virtual and packeted learning opportunities for our students and families every day to ensure that academic, social, and emotional support is progressing during this pandemic.

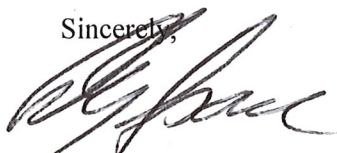
With over a 50% free and reduced lunch count, we have tried to meet the nutritional needs of our students by preparing and delivering over 215 breakfast/lunch meals a day. Our food service and support staff have been busy coming in at 6am to prepare the bagged meals and then delivering to our students between 9am-12pm every day. With the ongoing pandemic gripping our state, we know our families really need our continued support providing meals for their children.

While some districts have been able to go virtual without any problems at all, BDP has seen this as a significant challenge that continues to mount. A lot of rural districts face the same problems we face in BDP with the limited broadband and connectivity issues with the internet. Due to our location in Northeast Wisconsin our students are not afforded the same equal access to reliable internet service. Also, those with internet service are negatively impacted by multiple family members needing access for work which draws down the internet capability of their homes for our students. I would be willing to work with you on finding solutions to the broadband and connectivity issues facing rural Wisconsin, to ensure equal access to education for all of our students in the state.

As we move forward, I welcome your calls or emails so that I can answer any questions you may have. I am confident that together we can address and find solutions to the inequities that limit internet access and the resources needed to provide equality for all students.

I want to thank you for your leadership and dedication to the students and families of the State of Wisconsin, during these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,



Andy Space  
District Administrator