



BENTLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
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Dear Bulldog Families,

The Board of Education decided last night to stay with remote learning for the entire school district until the end of the first semester, which means that students will return on Monday, January 25th. These decisions have been difficult in so far as the Board recognizes that most students learn better at school. However, the safety and welfare of staff and students outweighs the benefit of in-person instruction at this time.

How do we make the best of this situation? So much of it depends on how we choose to look at the situation and how we choose to respond. Years ago, I was a paramedic. As you can imagine, I learned much from that job. When I showed up to a 911 call, it was never that person's best day. Never. Yet, I learned that some people handle terrible situations with grace and optimism and determination. Others, not so much. I had patients from birth to over 100 years old. I learned that each day is a gift—we don't know which day will be our last and we do not know which day will be the last for those we love. And from that job, I learned who I want to be when I'm 90 years old and who I don't want to be. (By the way, I want to be the person who lives with gratitude in her heart.) That is what I wish for each of you: to live with optimism, determination, and gratitude in your heart.

Since I've been here, people have died, houses have burned, burglaries have occurred, and so much more. Learning from home *is* hard, but it really could be so much worse. My hope is that you see the best in each situation—for yourself, but even more so for your children. Give them the gift of grit, of not giving up, and also of optimism, of finding the positive in each situation.

While Thanksgiving is technically this Thursday, may giving thanks become a daily practice for you and your family. Know that I wish you good health, peace, grit, and hopefulness.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristy Spann". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Kristy Spann, Superintendent