The following is a briefing for the week beginning May 18th on behalf of Dr. Cash.

Dear Colleagues:

Our school nurses shared a special message with their BPS students this week. Thank you, nurses. We are staying safe as you requested because we love and value you, too!

Join us as we celebrate Buffalo Public Schools Virtual Wellness Week, May 25th - May 29th, 2020: Stronger Together, Celebrating You! Those who visit the BPS website each day will click on that day’s link to our virtual wellness platform. Inside the “rooms”, users can click on the icons to find health and wellness resources. It’s the BPS way of keeping people engaged and healthy during the pandemic with healthful information and fun activities. Kudos to our Wellness Team!

Following all safety protocols, the staff of Davinci HS celebrated 90 seniors by visiting their homes to cheer them on. Staff dropped off lawn signs, and baggies that included a personalized inscribed pen/pencil set which they would have received their class day, among other things. “We did this as a reminder to our seniors that once a Dragon, Always a Dragon,” said Assistant Principal Lizzie Crispin Duverge. “Our students work hard during their elementary years in order to get accepted into our school, and we are saddened that due to COVID19- we can't celebrate as we would love to.” Seniors will also receive personalized Graduation boxes to help them celebrate a virtual graduation, which will go live June 22nd, 2020.
The District has launched its partnership with the Erie County Health Department to offer COVID-19 antibody testing at our school buildings. Please click here to see the statement from County officials for details. We commend County Executive Mark Poloncarz, Deputy County Executive Maria Whyte, and Health Commissioner Gail Burstein for their leadership on this matter and for the use of our school buildings to reach the full Buffalo community.

Janet Volk, Pre-K teacher at Stanley Makowski #99 says, “We’re Missing our students! We continue to reach them through a daily story time and have made two deliveries to their homes with care packages including books, paper, puzzles, a dry erase board with markers, crayons, an educational game, and more!” Ms. Volk and her Makowski colleagues including Special Ed Class Aide Lisa Licata, Pre-K Assistant Sheila Cahee, Speech Teacher Marta Best, 8:1:1 Teacher Amanda Luchey, and School Social Worker Kim Donoghue continue to use their PBIS strategies as children earn stickers and prizes!
The Buffalo Public Schools Adult Education Department has transitioned to a teaching model that allows both our high school equivalency diploma (HSE) and English Language (ESL) students to continue their studies and earn critical credentials for moving forward with their lives. Students and staff interact via phone, e-mail, and online meeting platforms. The www.UpSkill.org landing page provides access to online academic resources and critical community service referral information. In addition, the new Distance Learning Program is being aggressively promoted using digital and social media tools for Medical Office Technology, Cosmetology, Barbering, and Steam Engineering. Where possible, we will transition other courses to this new model. Where we are unable to do that, we will provide our students with options for class completion. Please share this valuable information among your own community.
You can "count" on Community Schools Saturday Academies to make math fun! Every activity offered this Saturday will involve some sort of calculation. We use math every day without even recognizing it. Join us, and count the wild ways!

Have a Safe Memorial Day Weekend!

Dr. Kriner Cash
Superintendent