December 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As a result of feedback garnered from surveys you completed last spring, Bethel Public Schools has made some substantive improvements to our systems of communication. We are transitioning from AlertNow to Blackboard for the mass parent/staff notification system. This notification service gives us more options to communicate including messages via voice (landline and cell phones), email, and now text messages (cell) regarding emergency situations and important announcements.

Families are enrolled **automatically** for this service as it is tied to our student database (PowerSchool). **However, you must now opt-in to receive text messages by returning the attached information update form**. The phone numbers and email addresses used for your student(s) are those associated with parent/guardian contact information.

We utilize this automated message system as needed, but ask that you note the following important details:

- All 3 messaging services in which you are enrolled [phone (voice), text, and email] are used for emergency situations, school early dismissals due to weather or other emergencies such as power outages, water main breaks, security issues, etc.

- Newsletters and other communications from the Superintendent's office and/or your child's school may be sent through email. Please check your email often.

- You must contact your child's school directly when you have changes to your information (phone numbers, email addresses, etc.) so that our PowerSchool database can be updated.

Please use the attached form to update your information and choose to receive text messages for each child in your family. (Use a separate form for each student in your family.) These forms will also be available on our website at www.bethel.k12.ct.us

Thank you for your cooperation with this initiative.
Sincerely,

Kevin J. Smith, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools