

# ***Bristol Borough School District***

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Dear Bristol Borough Community,

I hope that this correspondence finds you and your family well. The past 5 months have been challenging for all of us. As a parent, I understand the worry and concern that your family must be going through as you navigate the uncertainty surrounding the reopening of school. I appreciate the support and feedback you have given to help us make critical decisions for school reopening. Hopefully this correspondence will help in your planning efforts in the coming weeks.

Over the past several months, the Bristol Borough School District has been preparing for the return of students in September. We continually monitored the latest information regarding COVID-19 and its implications for the reopening of schools using guidance from the Bucks County Department of Health, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. We rigorously explored all of the options for reopening through the lens of the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff as a top priority.

As a result of our ongoing research and in an abundance of caution, the Board of Directors of the Bristol Borough School District has decided to implement a full virtual model for instruction with a re-evaluation to return to school on October 21st. The Board has also approved the draft of the District's proposed Health and Safety Plan which outlines protocols for cleaning and sanitation, ventilation, social distancing and other safety protocols, and monitoring student and staff health. We will use the District's Health and Safety plan as a guiding document for the protocols we will follow once we reopen schools for live instruction.

The decision to opt for a full virtual model for the reopening of school was not a decision that was entered into lightly. From the start, our goal was to provide an option for students to return to school in person. In the end, we had to weigh the decision to return to live instruction with our obligations to help mitigate the spread of the virus and ensure the health and safety of our school community.

Now that the decision has been made to start the year virtually, we will spend the remainder of the summer planning with our teachers and staff to provide a high quality virtual program that is stable and consistent. We will also continue to plan for the day when we can have students return to the building for live instruction with the latest health and safety protocols in place. We believe that the time we spend developing our programs now will help us to avoid having to abruptly close schools shortly after they open. Consistency and structure will be the keys to our student's success. We will provide these through meticulous planning and preparation for a virtual opening while continuing our efforts to transition to live instruction as soon as conditions permit.

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The model we are adopting for virtual instruction this fall will look different than the model we implemented in the spring in several critical ways. Below is an overview of what we will be implementing in the fall:

Equipment:

The Bristol Borough School District will implement a one-to-one Chromebook initiative. Every District student will receive his/her own Chromebook regardless of the mode of instruction.

Timing:

Virtual learning will begin on September 9, 2020 and will be re-evaluated on October 21, 2020. During this time, we will survey parents regarding their desire to remain virtual or return to live instruction. Parents who want their child(ren) to stay virtual will have that option and can change their decision on a quarterly basis. The decision to go with a hybrid model or a full 5 days a week live instruction model will depend on the results of the survey and our ability to follow the protocols set forth in the Health and Safety Plan.

Virtual Instruction:

- Will be taught by BBSD teachers.
- Will offer BBSD classes.
- Will be held five days a week with a combination of both synchronous and asynchronous instruction.
- Attendance will be mandatory and tracked on a daily basis.
- Courses will be graded.
- Teachers will be using Google Classroom as the platform for instruction. Google Classroom can be accessed from the Chromebooks or from any device that has the internet (Phones, laptops, tablets, etc.).
- Learning will be a blend of synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities, with time built into the schedule for students to be away from the screen and engage on hands-on activities and independent practice.
- Grading procedures will be similar to those of a normal school year, with some variation given the current situation.
- An orientation will be held during the first week of school so students and parents can get to know their new teachers and become familiar with the procedures and protocols.
- Guidance will be provided to help students and parents navigate the online learning environment and troubleshoot Chromebook issues.
- Our Student Services Director will be contacting families of students who require special services to plan to support these student's individual learning needs.

More information about the schedule for virtual instruction and the distribution of Chromebooks will be available in the coming weeks. If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at [covid-19@bbsd.org](mailto:covid-19@bbsd.org). Again, thank you for your continued support. We look forward to a successful opening of school in the 2020-2021 school year and to working with our families to serve the individual needs of our students.

Respectfully,

*Rose Minniti*

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