

Bristol Borough School District

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July 28, 2020

Dear Bristol Borough School Community,

I hope this correspondence finds you well. Thank you to all of the parents who participated in the survey earlier this month regarding school reopening in September. I know many of you are eagerly awaiting news from the District regarding our plan for the reopening of school. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we have continued to gather information and devise alternatives that allow us to best meet the educational, emotional, social, health and safety needs of our students.

We know that families need to start preparing for the return to school. To that end, we are proposing the following options for reopening based on the current medical research, recommendations from the CDC, the Bucks County Department of Health, the results of the survey and the classroom space available at each building. Please keep in mind that we may have to shift from one option to another as we receive guidance and mandates from the Governor's office. At this point, all options listed below remain possibilities. The district will continue to collect data and information to make a final decision in the coming weeks.

Options for Reopening:

Option A: Full Live Instruction

- Students return to school 5 days a week.
- Larger classrooms will be utilized for larger classes of students.
- Classrooms will be spaced with at least 4 feet between desks. Many classrooms provide the opportunity for even greater spacing (5ft or 6ft).
- Students will maintain a distance of 6ft while eating.
- Face coverings will be required whenever students cannot maintain a distance of 6 ft.

Option B: Hybrid Schedule

- Students will have live instruction two days a week and virtual instruction three days a week on an A & B day schedule so approximately half of the district students are in the building on any given day.
- Families will be grouped on the same days.
- Students will have at least 6 feet of space between desks.
- Students will maintain a distance of 6 feet while eating.
- Face coverings will be required whenever students cannot maintain a distance of 6 feet.

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Option C: Full Virtual

- The district is working on offering a full virtual option for each of its classes.
- Classes will be taught by Bristol Borough teaching staff.
- Virtual classes will run 5 days a week.
- Parents may choose this option as an alternative to Option A or Option B if it meets the needs of their student(s) and families are not comfortable with Options A or B.
- Students will follow the same curriculum as their peers who are in Options A or B so they can transition back to the classroom when appropriate.
- If the District goes to full virtual instruction, this is the model we will implement.

Option D: Opt in the Districts Cyber Charter School (Bridges)

- Instruction is virtual 5 days a week.
- Classes are contracted through the Bucks County Intermediate Unit using the Bridges Platform.
- Instructors are not Bristol Borough teachers, but classes count toward a Bristol Borough Diploma.

*Although there may be some exceptions based on class sizes, the district cannot maintain both Option A and Option B at the same time. All other Options will run simultaneously. Directions will be released in the next week for parents considering a cyber-option on enrolling procedures.

Planning for the reopening of school during a pandemic has been one of the most challenging issues we have faced as a District. To help ensure that our decisions are based on the most current information possible our team has completed the following:

- Participated in weekly meetings with the regional superintendents and Dr. David Damsker from the Bucks County Department of Health.
- Reviewed all of the current literature on returning to schools during COVID-19.
- Met with the faculty and the building administrators on a regular basis to discuss scheduling options and to gain insight into the unique needs of each grade level.
- Walked each of the hallways with the building administrators and measured classrooms and common spaces to determine capacities.
- Analyzed ventilation patterns for each classroom.
- Devised a plan to provide additional nursing staff in school buildings.
- Reevaluate custodial assignments to ensure buildings are cleaned and sanitized on a regular schedule throughout the day.
- Considered scheduling options to reduce stress on students.
- Evaluated supports for students emotional and behavioral needs.
- Assesses meal options for students given various scheduling options.
- Analyzed traffic patterns and social distancing options for students both in and out of the building.

Our overarching goal is to provide the safest and most productive environment for students to continue to grow and learn. At the end of the week, the District will release its draft of the Health and Safety Plan that will be voted on by the School Board Thursday, August 6. The Health and Safety Plan articulates details of what the District will do to mitigate the spread of COVID -19 when students return to school. The plan includes information on the following topics:

- Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting and Ventilation
- Social Distancing and Other Safety Protocols
- Monitoring Student and Staff Health

- Professional Development Plans
- Communications Plans
- Material and Resource Acquisition
- Contract Tracing Protocols

The plan will cover both Option A and Option B with variations only in the amount of distance between desks and the number of students who will be in the building at a given time.

As information is released, please feel free to contact the district with your questions and concerns. We have launched a district email address where parents and community members can pose their questions and concerns regarding the reopening of school. The email address is covid-19@bbsd.org. We will be using the information and questions collected with this address to create a Q & A document and address concerns during our upcoming meetings.

As always, thank you for your continued support of the District. We are committed to working with you to provide the best possible opportunities for every student and look forward to the day when we can all be together as a school community.

Respectfully,

Rose Minniti

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