

BBSD Frequently Asked Questions

August 26, 2020

What does our schedule look like for the next several weeks?

We are back in our school buildings and begin classes on Tuesday, September 1, 2020. Staff will return on Thursday, August 27, Friday, August 28 and Monday, August 31. Our athletic season is back on track and student athletes began practices on Monday, August 24! The band has been rehearsing and we are looking forward to the new school year!!

What were the results of the learning option choices selected by families for the beginning of the school year?

The district surveyed families to see what learning options were preferred based on the district Health & Safety Plan, which was approved by the elected Board. The three options include:

1. In Person Instruction
2. Berlin Cyber School (Provided by WaterFront Learning through IU3)
3. Home School Instruction

The survey results were as follows:

92% of families indicated that they want their student to attend in person.

6% of families indicated that they would prefer the cyber option for their children

2% of families indicated that they would prefer home schooling their children

We believe that it is important for families to have options which will meet the health and safety needs for their children. The district respects all options and the choices that parents believe are best for their families.

What is the latest information regarding the wearing of face coverings in school?

The Pennsylvania Department of Education in cooperation with the Department of Health announced on Monday, August 17, 2020, the requirement of all students to wear face coverings at all times, while in school. Based on this mandate, all students and staff are required to wear face coverings on the bus and throughout the school

day. Students may remove their coverings at lunchtime and teachers will provide “covering breaks” during class periods with appropriate distancing. The district will provide three (3) washable cloth face coverings for each student or students may use a face covering of their choice which cover their mouth and nose. If there is a medical reason that students or staff are not able to wear coverings, a **Medical Exemption Form** is accessible on the website for the purpose of providing this medical documentation.

What are the rules for bus transportation?

Parents and students should be screened at home for any health issues prior to riding the bus. Students with COVID symptoms and/or a fever of over 100.4 degrees should not be sent to school. Students are required to wear face coverings while riding the bus. A maximum of two (2) students per seat will be assigned. Siblings will be seated together on the bus. Students who are riding buses should arrive at their stops approximately five (5) minutes early on the first several days to their stop due to the uncertainty of exact pickup times.

What are the requirements for entering the school buildings during the school year?

We have not received a variety of equipment due to the impact of COVID-19 on manufacturing. We have not received the temperature kiosks which will be used each morning for temperature screenings. The district is relying on parents and students to assess their physical condition and determine if they should stay at home. If students have a temperature of 100.4 or higher and/or do not feel well, then staying at home is the safe option for everyone. Students will be admitted at four (4) entrances:

High School Main Doors
Middle School Main Doors
Elementary Main Doors
Ag Hallway Doors

These are the entrances at which the temperature kiosks will be setup when they arrive.

What is the status of the technology which is to be provided to each student?

The technology for grades K-2 has arrived and is being distributed. The Chromebooks for grades 3-9 have not arrived and will be distributed as soon as possible.

Will drop off and pick up procedures change this year?

Yes. Only students will be permitted access to the buildings. Parents will not be permitted in the buildings with their children in the morning or afternoon. The afternoon pick up will be moved for elementary students from the small gym to an outside location. More details will be provided prior to the first day of school.

Will there be traditional “Back to School” nights and orientations?

Due to State regulations, the process of orienting students and parents needed to be modified. We will still provide opportunities for orienting students and parents. The structure will change and the information will be provided in a different format. Information regarding orientations is provided on the district website and will be updated periodically.

What if a student becomes ill while at school? What will happen?

It is common for students to catch a variety of illnesses upon return to school. This does not mean it is COVID-19. Mrs. Ritchey is the School Nurse who will screen students who are exhibiting symptoms of illness while at school. She will contact parents and send them home if necessary. Parents should keep their child at home until well and/or have them checked by a physician if warranted.

What will happen if there is a positive COVID-19 case in the school?

The Department of Health (DOH) or county and municipal health departments will notify the school immediately upon learning that a person with a confirmed case or probable case of COVID-19 was present at the school or a school event while infectious. DOH or CMHD staff will assist the school with risk assessment, isolation and quarantine recommendations, and other infection control recommendations. The district will take every measure to maintain the confidentiality of the affected individual.

What are the main things we should do to be able to stay in school for in person instruction?

1. Wash your hands and sanitize frequently.
2. Wear a face covering which covers your mouth and nose.
3. Maintain a safe distance from others (social distancing).
4. Stay home if you have a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher or feel ill.
5. Bring labeled bottled water in order to fill up from water stations.

