

BBSD Frequently Asked Questions
November 17, 2020

What is the current status of school and in person instruction?

We were notified this morning that one of our cafeteria staff was exposed to COVID. Our COVID team met this morning and discussed the situation. We participated in a conference call with the Department of Health and also sought guidance from an epidemiologist.

Based on this information, we need to quarantine the majority of our cafeteria staff for two weeks. The DOH informed us that the food for today and the cafeteria are safe for students. We are able to finish the school day. Our faculty, office and other available staff will serve lunch today to our K-8 students. We will dismiss at our regular time to avoid issues with students returning to empty homes.

This situation will require the district to be virtual for all grades K-12 from Wednesday, November 18 through Tuesday, November 24. We will return to school in person on Wednesday, December 2, 2020.

Extra-curricular activities and parent/teacher conferences will still be able to take place.

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

We are still waiting for our Chromebook delivery which was originally scheduled for arrival on July 20, 2020. Due to COVID-19 issues, the ability of manufacturers to complete orders has resulted in a delay in receiving this technology. Each week we contact the supplier and sales office to reinforce the importance of delivering these Chromebooks to the Berlin Brothersvalley School District as soon as possible. The supplier has informed the district that the order should be shipped in December 2020.

We have seen an increase in the COVID virus in the county and in our school district. How will this impact teaching and learning if we need to go virtual?

If the district buildings are closed for any reason, instruction will continue at home using technology and our new learning management system, Schoology, to manage the learning environment for students and parents. Based on the technology survey we conducted, 80% of our students/families are able to access their instruction using technology and internet service at their homes with no issues. We are working to supply the remaining 20% with technology and/or more reliable broadband services to be able to function from home. If needed, we will provide learning packets similar to what we did during marking period four last year to continue instruction. Our goal is to stay in our buildings for instruction for the entire school year but be prepared for any situation which might require remote learning.

What should parents know about Schoology in order to maximize learning whether in person or virtually?

Our teachers have been utilizing Schoology to manage the learning process while in school which will extend to out of school instruction if needed. Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade 2 students have been using their iPads and Schoology during the entire first marking period. Teachers have been providing parents with information to manage their children's learning both in school and at home.

Teachers in Grades 3-8 have been utilizing Schoology to develop their learning platforms and continue to communicate with parents on how to access and utilize Schoology to monitor their children's progress.

Our Grades 9-12 students have already experienced several virtual days and are able to function successfully using this format.

Important: Parents should contact teachers for information regarding Schoology and how to maximize its potential to manage the learning environment. Communication is critical to success!!

How will parent/teacher conferences be handled this year?

Parent/teacher conferences will be held in November. Due to the COVID-19 issues, a variety of formats will be used at various grade levels to engage in discussions regarding student performance. High school parents will have an opportunity for conference on November 17 and 19. Parents should email their student's teachers to schedule either a virtual or in person conference. Teachers in grades Kindergarten through grade eight will provide information regarding their conferencing format.

How does the district handle COVID-19 cases when reported?

The Department of Health (DOH) or County/Municipal Health Departments (CMHD) 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, school event, or community function while infectious. A school team including Mrs. Roxanna Ritchey, School Nurse and administrators will work with DOH or CMHD staff on risk assessment, isolation and quarantine recommendations and other infection control recommendations. The district will take every measure to maintain the confidentiality of the affected individuals.

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 at home if you are ill and/or have a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher.

5. Bring labeled bottled water in order to fill up from water stations.

***If you or anyone in your household is tested for COVID-19, then children in the home should not be sent to school until the results of the test are received.**