



Blue Ridge CUSD#18  
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December 12, 2020

Dear Blue Ridge Community,

The Board of Education met last night to discuss learning model plans for January. It is our ongoing goal to give full consideration to multiple factors as we make the instructional decisions for our Blue Ridge students. We will continue to monitor county health metrics and listen to guidance from our local health departments, IDPH, and the CDC. We are currently working on adding a feature to our webpage that will provide updated COVID-19 statistics, including the cumulative count of student and staff positive COVID-19 cases, as well as the number of students and staff who are currently isolating or quarantining. We are also very mindful of the impact that remote instruction has upon our students' learning and emotional wellbeing, as well as the impact from frequent changes to our learning models during the first semester.

Balancing the aforementioned factors, we have made our learning model decision that will begin in January. For the first week in January, we will have our Curriculum Day activities on January 4; no student learning activities will be provided. For the remainder of that week, January 5-8, we will learn remotely, inviting special education students to attend in person. This is often referred to as an adaptive pause when remote learning is scheduled following a holiday. The purpose is to provide time between potential family travel and gatherings and the start of in person instruction. Beginning the second week of January and continuing through the end of the third quarter, we will maintain remote learning on Mondays, with on campus instruction on Tuesdays through Fridays, with a 2:20 dismissal time.

One exception to that plan is for our Pre-K students. Pre-K students will follow the district plan with remote learning on January 5-8. For the weeks of January 11, 18, and 25, Pre-K students will learn remotely on Mondays and remain with their hybrid schedule (Blue and Silver) for Tuesdays through Fridays. Then, during the first week of February, Pre-K students will begin following the K-12 model of remote learning on Mondays and on campus instruction for all students on Tuesdays through Fridays.

For our students who have elected a full remote learning experience through Edmentum (Knight Learners), your instruction begins on Tuesday, January 5. Please contact Paige Trimble with any questions or if any assistance is needed. You can reach her at [ptrimble@blueridge18.org](mailto:ptrimble@blueridge18.org).

If you have any questions or concerns related to documented medical conditions or extenuating circumstances, please reach out to your building principal.

Dr. Hillary Stanifer



Dr. Hillary Stanifer, Superintendent  
Mrs. Lois Dowling, Interim Director of Student Services, Mrs. Mary Diener, Interim BRHS Principal  
Mrs. Katie Nichols, BRJHS Principal  
Mr. Ryan Peyton, Ruth M. Schneider Elementary Principal