



BETHEL LOCAL SCHOOLS

EDUCATE WITH EXCELLENCE!

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Bethel Local Schools
Fall 2021 Restart Plan
School Board Approved: June 17, 2021 (expected)

It is the intent of the Bethel Local School District to open this fall by educating our students in an environment that will be considered as close to “normal” as possible while implementing safety protocols to protect both students and staff. Our school will follow the guidelines set forth by the state and local leaders and are subject to change with very little or no notice.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, “dangers of social isolation outweigh the risks of in-person classes for most children.” Our district’s plans take into consideration the health and safety of our students and families, as well as the district staff and the community as a whole. While providing effective teaching and student learning, the goal is to also support our student’s social, emotional, physical and behavioral health.

COMMUNICATION

Please email superintendent, Justin Firks at firsj@blsk12.org at any time with any questions that you might have.

Daily Expectations of Students and Parents

- Alert teachers/staff of any changes in wellness or symptoms.
- Students will be asked to wash and sanitize their hands regularly through the school day.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles and use the bottle fillers to limit the use of the drinking fountains.

Student Illnesses

- Any student with a fever over 100.0 F should stay home.
- Any student that has the following symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home from school and should see their primary care provider to be assessed for COVID-19:
 - Any of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell.
 - Two of the following symptoms: fever (measured or subjective), chills, rigors, muscle soreness, headache, sore throat, GI issues (nausea and vomiting or diarrhea).
 - Any of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever (measured or subjective), chills, rigors, muscle soreness, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, GI issues (nausea and vomiting or diarrhea) **AND** an epidemiological link to a case of COVID-19.
- If a student has been diagnosed with COVID-19, the school in conjunction with the local health department will administer contact tracing to identify any students or staff who may have been exposed to the virus.

WWW.BETHELK12.ORG

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Returning to School after Illness

- If a student is diagnosed as having COVID-19, they must meet the following criteria to return to school:
 - 24 hours with no fever (without using fever reducing medication) **AND**
 - Other symptoms improved/gone **AND**
 - 10 days since symptoms first appeared
- Students that only have a fever and no other symptoms and have not had any contact with an individual that has COVID-19 may return to school after they are fever free for 24 hours without using any fever reducing medications.
- Any other illnesses should be handled in a routine manner according to district procedures.

Daily Expectations of Teachers and Staff

- Daily wellness checks/questionnaires may be required
- Alert administration of any changes in wellness or symptoms
- Quarantining guidelines and considerations will be followed as outlined above
- Disinfect classrooms and areas in between student/group use

Vaccines

All students and staff who are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine are encouraged to do so, but the School District understands that this is a personal decision.

Visitors and Volunteers

Visitors and volunteers will generally be discouraged from visiting the facilities during the school day. Safety protocols such as taking temperatures, face covering, and a health questionnaire may be implemented for all visitors.

Protective Measures

Bethel Local School District has taken great measures to ensure the safety of our students and staff by creating social distancing wherever possible and being vigilant on disinfecting our school. Purchases of additional hand sanitizing stations, disinfectants and barriers have made our building much safer for our students and staff against the COVID-19 virus. We will establish routines for students to sanitize their hands and wash them on a regular basis.

Lunchroom Measures

While most current options will remain, parents will be encouraged to use PaySchools account or send checks with their children to minimize cash transactions.

Equipment

We will encourage students to have their own supplies for class so sharing is kept to a minimum. Staff members will be provided with additional cleaning supplies to ensure every effort is made to sanitize equipment between use of different students. Water bottle filling stations are available to students to fill student containers.

Class Transition

Students will be asked to spend a minimal amount of time in the hallways or at their lockers.

Face Coverings

Unless it is mandated by the local, state or national authorities, face coverings will not be required for students or teachers. If a parent, student or teacher would like to continue to wear face coverings, they may do so and will provide their own covering.

Online option for selected/special circumstances

We realize that there are special circumstances that each family and student faces when returning to school in a different way. If students have circumstances that would not allow them to return to school as described, please talk with your building principal to explore alternative settings. Bethel Local Schools **does not** intend to offer an ‘Option C’ as we had in the 2020-2021 school year.

Continuity of Service

With the exception of two weeks in the winter of 2020 at Bethel Middle School, the Bethel Local School District has practiced “in-person” learning since the start of the 2020-2021 school year. The district plans to continue with in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year. During this time, the district will provide all services to students, including health and food services to all attending students. The district staff will monitor students to determine their social and emotional health and offer services where needed. All appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities will be provided during this time.

Closing the Gap

The district will periodically administer diagnostic assessments to determine where there is a loss of education due to hardships of the pandemic and address this loss as needed. This will include summer school, interventions and adopting a curriculum that addresses the needs of our students.

***visit <https://www.miamicountyhealth.net/> for more Miami County Health information.