



BOONEVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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August 12, 2020

Booneville Public Schools Back to School Plan For Re-Entry Public Release

Booneville School District staff members are working diligently to plan for the 2020-21 school year. We recently released a parent survey and were pleased with the overwhelming response from our parents and students - thank you! The information gained from this survey has provided us with vital information in our decision making. A consistent theme in your responses is that you are ready for your children to go back to school! With that being said, we are creating a detailed plan which will address eight key areas:

1. District Governance
2. Facilities and Transportation
3. Human Resources
4. Academics
5. Student Support
6. Health and Safety
7. Technology
8. Communication/Parent Engagement

A task force has been formed to address the key areas for school re-entry in August.

In an effort to answer many of the questions you have in relation to the 2020-21 school year, we are releasing the information below with the understanding that this is a changing situation with continued updates and directives from the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) and the Department of Education. The information included in this document is based on what we know today and is subject to change. We will continue to give you updates as they are available and will be releasing a District Support Plan in late July with more specific information.

Sincerely,

Trent Goff
Superintendent

August 12, 2020

Booneville Public Schools COVID-19 Guidelines for 2020 - 2021

Booneville Public Schools will follow the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) guidelines and the Arkansas Ready for Learning report issued by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in planning for re-opening in the fall. We hope the following information helps answer many of the questions you may have about reopening schools.

Our goal will be to provide as safe an experience as possible that includes a rich educational experience, with opportunities for social interaction and extra curricular activities while adhering to guidelines provided by the Arkansas Department of Health.

What is the first day for students?

School will begin on August 24, 2020 as originally planned.

Who will be required to wear face coverings?

All students, grades K-12 shall be required to wear a face covering (which covers the nose and mouth). Whether physical distancing is appropriate or other exception is applicable shall be determined by a teacher, principal, or other school administrator. Students in violation of this resolution may be subject to discipline in accordance with the District's student discipline policies. All staff (certified and classified) and all visitors to school campuses shall be required to wear a mask or face covering while present in a school building, facility, or other area of campus when physical distancing of 6 feet is not possible or practical.

Do we need to provide masks for our student or will one be provided?

The district will provide one washable mask for every student.

Will bus transportation be provided?

Yes, the district will provide bus transportation for all students. Based on current ADH guidance, students will be required to wear face coverings when riding the bus. We are planning no changes to bus schedules or bus stops.

How normal will the day be for a student?

Our goal is for your student(s) to have as normal of a day as possible while we also provide as much safety as possible. Students will not remain in the same classroom all day but will be able to transition from one class to another. Of course, sanitation will take place before a new group of students enter a space.

Will students at the elementary still have extra classes like PE, art, music, guidance and library?

Yes, students will continue to participate in activity classes, check out library books, and receive guidance and gifted instruction.

Will my elementary student have recess?

Yes. Elementary students will have outdoor play time with restrictions that limit the number of students they come in contact with. Additionally, playground equipment will be sanitized.

Will social distancing guidelines be observed?

Social distancing will be observed as much as feasibly possible but at times students will be closer than the recommended 6 ft. apart. When social distancing requirements can not be maintained such as class exchange time, etc., students should wear face coverings. We will redesign classrooms and cafeteria spaces to increase the space between students but can not always guarantee it will be 6 ft.

Will classrooms be arranged differently to protect students?

Yes, classrooms will be arranged to provide more space between students. That might mean all desks are arranged in rows facing in a single direction. It might result in reading areas with bean bags, couches or comfy chairs being removed. It might include dividers between students who are seated at a table. We will make every effort to provide distance but not limit students ability to interact and communicate with others in their classroom. Additionally, supplies and materials will not be shared by students.

Will students attend school every day or will we have some type of alternative schedule?

We plan for students to attend school daily following a very similar schedule to the traditional school day.

If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, what will happen?

In the event an individual tests positive, we will follow the latest guidance from the ADH. We will be in direct contact with ADH. This could result in a brief closure of a single school within the district to provide time for additional cleaning and sanitation.

Will students and adults be screened daily?

Parents will be asked to screen their students on a daily basis. If your student answers yes to any of the following questions, we ask that you keep them home and contact the office. This will be expected of all staff as well. We have installed a contactless thermometer at each building.

- 1.) Have you had a fever of 100.4°F or greater in the last 2 days
- 2.) Have you had a abnormal cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell
- 3.) Have you been in contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19 within the previous 14 days

If I don't want my student to return to a traditional classroom, what are my options?

The District has provided a survey to all parents to collect information regarding their interest in a digital option for students. This would provide a total online educational program for students who did not feel comfortable returning to onsite instruction. Parents will be asked to sign up for the Booneville Online program and commit to a

minimum of nine weeks. Parents and students will be required to commit to the Virtual Education option no later than August 1st.

If students choose to do full-time virtual, will they be able to participate in extracurricular activities?

Booneville Online Program students in grades 7-12 may participate in AAA activities in person at the school, including band, choir, and athletics. Students must attend at least ONE class in person on the campus to participate in an AAA activity. The activity can be the one class on campus if provided during the school day.

Will we have Open House?

We are currently designing a modified version of our open houses and will be sending more information soon.

Monday, August 10 - BES, BJHS, BHS

**Face to Face open house will be for Kindergarten, 7th graders, and new students to any building.*

Will students be able to participate in extracurricular activities and sports in the fall?

Yes, senior high and Jr. High athletes returned to campus June 2 to begin practice.. We anticipate sports activities in the fall with possible modifications as required by the ADH. At this time, we are still awaiting guidance on both band and choir.

Will my student eat lunch in their classroom?

Based on current guidance, the ADH is recommending cafeterias limit the capacity of students in the cafeteria. We anticipate this may either mean we will be required to adjust lunch schedules or use alternative areas, such as large gathering spaces or lunch in their classroom. Proper sanitation of all areas will be completed after each meal. Procedures will not allow students to pick up utensils, self-serve, or share food. Parents are encouraged to send a water bottle with their students since water fountains will not be available.

What special precautions will be implemented in regard to cleaning and sanitizing?

Sanitation and cleanliness will be a high priority for our district as we return in the fall. Staff will clean high touch surfaces (door knobs, light switches, etc.) and restrooms on a continuous basis throughout the day. We will also provide time for hand washing and hand sanitizer throughout our campuses. Students will be asked to sanitize their hands each time they leave a space and/or enter a new space.

If a student comes to school sick, what will happen?

If a student comes to school sick, the school nurse will screen the student and check their temperature. If temperature is over the ADH guidance, the student will be sent home and will need to be fever free for 48 hours -without medication- before returning to school. When the child returns to school they will check in with the school nurse.

How will you help fill any gaps my student has from the previous year?

Curriculum teams have worked to revise the curriculum so that missed essential standards will be addressed when students return. Additionally, students will be assessed to determine individual strengths and deficits. These assessments will determine if students need additional support. At the secondary level, missed skills from a previous course will be embedded in the next course in the sequence. For example, a student enrolled in geometry would have geometry skills embedded in their Algebra II course.

What happens if we have school closures again?

If schools close again, a plan for at-home digital learning has been developed. This plan includes Pre-K thru 2nd grade using SeeSaw; and grades 3-12 using Google Classroom to submit assignments. Teachers will utilize Zoom/Google Hangouts to deliver live lessons when possible. Students will learn how to use these Learning Management Systems by participating in lessons throughout the week while at school. Blended learning that included both on-site traditional instruction and digital instruction will become the norm. This approach will allow students who might be ill or quarantined for a limited amount of time to continue their education even if they are not physically present in the classroom.

Will our students have the same arrival and dismissal times?

Right now all students will have the same arrival and dismissal times. Depending on guidance from ADH, arrival and dismissal times may be varied, in order to increase social distancing and to decrease the number of students in the cafeteria and gym before school starts.

What advice do you have for students with special needs (autism, asthma, panic attacks, anxiety, etc.) or students with weakened immune systems and pre-existing conditions?

The district will be prepared to accommodate students with special needs through both onsite and offsite instruction. Our Special Education instructors will be taking extra precautions when working with students. If parents have concerns about their students who may be at high-risk because of COVID-19, they may explore the virtual learning option which allows the student to continue their education from the safety of their own home.

In the event of a temporary school closure, how will the district serve students who have special needs (Special Education, 504, Dyslexia, etc).

In the event of a school closure, students will participate in live instruction with scheduled Zoom sessions.