

Benton Public Schools



Ready For Learning
2021-2022

Contents

Overview.....	4
FAQ.....	5
What is the first day of school for students?	5
Will schools close at various times this year?.....	5
What happens if schools close again?	5
If school is closed, can I pick up a "packet" of work instead of online?	5
Will bus transportation be provided?	6
How "normal" will the day be for a student?	6
Will social distancing guidelines be observed?	6
Will classrooms be arranged differently to protect students?	6
If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, what will happen? Will I be notified of any COVID cases in the district?	7
How will attendance/absences work?.....	7
Will students at the elementary still have extra classes like PE, art, music, guidance, and library?	7
Will my elementary child(ren) have recess?	7
If a student comes to school sick, what will happen?.....	7
Will our students have the same arrival and dismissal times?	8
Will students and adults be screened daily?	8
Will I still be allowed to have lunch with my child or visit my child at school?	8
What if my child has special needs (autism, asthma, panic attacks, anxiety, weakened immune system, etc.)?.....	8
Will there be assemblies, pep rallies, etc.?	8
Will my student eat lunch in their classroom?.....	8
What special precautions will be implemented regarding cleaning and sanitizing?	9

Will my high school child still be able to attend college courses at Saline County Career Center and Three Rivers College?9

Overview

Benton Public Schools will follow all requirements from the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) and the Arkansas Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in opening the 2021-2022 school year. The guidance for schools can be found [here](#).

Our goal is to provide a safe environment that includes a rich educational experience, with opportunities for social interaction and extracurricular activities while adhering to the guidelines provided by ADH and DESE.

FAQ

What is the first day of school for students?

For grades 1-12, school will begin on Monday, August 16.

Kindergarten assessments will be on August 16 and August 17 by appointment. If you need an appointment, please contact your child's school. The first day of school for Kindergarten will be:

Kindergarten Girls First Day: August 19

Kindergarten Boys First Day: August 20

Will schools close at various times this year?

At this time, it is unknown if/when the district or schools may close. The district has been told to prepare for any situation, such as a classroom, individual school, or district-wide closure. Any closure is made under the guidance from ADH and DESE. If there is a mandatory school closing, the district will continue the learning process via Google Classroom.

What happens if schools close again?

If schools close again, the schools will pivot from onsite learning to remote/virtual learning. Instruction continues the next day. When schools must move from onsite to remote, Google Classroom will be used as the platform for disseminating instructional information, assessments, and assignments for all students K-12. Teachers will use a meeting platform to provide live lessons. Students will learn how to use the platforms by participating in lessons throughout the week while at school. 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. Videos on how to use Google Classroom and the meeting platform will be provided to parents so they will be able to support their child/ren during closures. Students should check their email and Google Classroom daily as directed by the teacher.

If school is closed, can I pick up a "packet" of work instead of online?

All virtual learning will be online. Paper packets of work will not be available except in limited and emergency circumstances to minimize interaction and sharing of materials. Locations with internet access for students to download and upload their materials will be published on the district's social media page. If a student has reliable internet at home, all of their work could be completed from home.

Will bus transportation be provided?

Yes, the district will provide bus transportation for all students that live more than two miles from their school. All students will be assigned a seat on 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 child(ren) to have as normal of a day as possible while providing as much safety as possible. Therefore, students will not remain in the same classroom all day but will transition from one class to another. Sanitation will take place before a new group of students enter a space.

Will social distancing guidelines be observed?

Social distancing will be observed as much as possible, but students may sometimes be closer than the recommended six feet apart. We will redesign classrooms and cafeteria spaces to increase the distance between students but cannot always guarantee it will be six feet.

Will classrooms be arranged differently to protect students?

Yes, classrooms will be arranged to provide as much space as possible between students without limiting their ability to interact and communicate with others in their classroom. Any sharing of supplies or work surfaces will be minimized as much as possible. Students will be expected to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before and after using any shared supplies.

What is the district policy on masks?

Students and staff have the choice of whether or not to wear a mask on campus. Thus, masks and face coverings are optional.

If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, what will happen? Will I be notified of any COVID cases in the district?

If an individual tests positive, we will follow the latest guidance and contact ADH. This could result in a brief closure of a classroom, grade level, or school to provide additional time for cleaning. Due to state and federal laws and regulations, disclosing any positive case or potentially positive case is restricted.

How will attendance/absences work?

Attendance for students who attend onsite will be taken based upon them being physically present. If a student is quarantined or required to isolate due to possible exposure, a medical note will excuse all absences and will not count against the student.

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. We plan to have students travel to those activity classes. However, there may be times the teacher may present their lesson in the student's classroom to reduce the amount of cleaning possible.

Will my elementary child(ren) have recess?

Yes. Elementary students will have outdoor recess when the weather allows.

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

If a student comes to school sick, the school nurse will screen them and check their temperature. If the temperature is over the ADH guidance, the student will be sent home, and we will follow the latest guidance from ADH

before returning to school. When the child returns to school, they will check in with the school nurse.

Will our students have the same arrival and dismissal times?

Yes, unless we are required to change those by ADH.

Will students and adults be screened daily?

The district will follow the latest requirements from the ADH in regards to screening staff and students. Parents should screen their children prior to school, and if they suspect their child is sick or showing any symptoms, keep them at home.

Will I still be allowed to have lunch with my child or visit my child at school?

To minimize exposure, visitors will be limited to the office and only when necessary. If a parent needs to pick up a child or contact the office, we ask that they call the office from their vehicle, and the child will be brought to them.

What if my child has special needs (autism, asthma, panic attacks, anxiety, weakened immune system, etc.)?

Students with underlying health conditions as defined by the [CDC](#) may be eligible for virtual learning. For more information, the student's parent can contact the building principal.

Will there be assemblies, pep rallies, etc.?

Currently, large group gatherings are not allowed. However, when they are allowed, and it is safe to do so, those activities will resume.

Will my student eat lunch in their classroom?

The district will try to keep the school day as normal as possible. However, depending upon the number of students and facilities available, classrooms would be used for lunch only if needed.

What special precautions will be implemented regarding cleaning and sanitizing?

Sanitation and cleanliness will be a high priority for our district as we return in the fall. We will be cleaning high-touch surfaces (doorknobs, light switches, etc.) and restrooms continuously throughout the day. In addition, we will provide time for handwashing, and hand sanitizer is available throughout all campuses. Students are asked to sanitize their hands each time they leave and enter a space.

Will my high school child still be able to attend college courses at Saline County Career Center and Three Rivers College?

Yes. As long as those campuses are open, students will be able to attend.