



# BURKEVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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To the parents of Burkeville ISD students,

As we quickly approach the beginning of the new school year, Burkeville ISD is committed to being prepared for your child(ren) to have a strong academic year as well as a safe, clean and healthy environment. In efforts to do this, we value your input and are asking you to take the time to complete the surveys which will be posted on BISD's website. In addition, in the next few weeks you will have a choice of either In-Person Learning or At-Home Learning for our child(ren).

For the past three weeks a survey on three calendars was posted on BISD's website. Since that time, the information has been tallied and the final decision on the 2020-2021 school calendar will be posted on the website by July 16, 2020.

On July 7, 2020, the Texas Education Agency provided guidance to school districts on the requirements and protocols for traditional "in school" classes. BISD will be following the recommendations put forth by TEA and will be posting this complete information on the website. Some of the procedures that will be implemented include: increased signage around campuses promoting disease mitigation strategies, increased cleaning and sanitation practices, as well as frequent reminders of hand hygiene and social distancing. Face coverings will be highly recommended and encouraged for staff and students when on campus. In addition, all teachers and staff members will receive COVID-19 prevention training prior to the opening of school. Please be advised that health plans will be subject to change based on recommendations from the public health officials and TEA.

To better understand the needs of our community, we will be posting a survey on the BISD website. It will be available from July 9th through July 17th. In order for our students, families, and staff members to make plans going forward, BISD will offer two options of instructional delivery models for our students: traditional in-person learning on campus, or at-home learning. The At-Home Learning option is being provided for our families who have health

and safety concerns about sending their children back to school. BISD is making every effort to have both instructional platforms comprehensive; however, not all courses will effectively translate to a virtual learning environment, particularly specialized courses offered to secondary (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) where students will be required to attend in-person learning experiences on campus. Some examples of these courses are welding, or small engines. For these specialized courses that are not offered at-home, students will have the option to either attend in-person or BISD staff will work with your child to find a suitable replacement course. As far as classes offered in Jasper through DECCA, we will follow all safety and health protocols and specific details concerning classes which will be coming once they are determined. Please understand that these plans may be adjusted as we receive further guidance and clarification from the TEA.

Regardless of which learning option you choose for your child, the expectations for coursework and the grading system will be the same for both In-Person and At-Home Learning. We believe this is the fairest and most equitable solution for all of our students. Applicable courses in 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade will be included in calculating GPA and class rank for both In-Person and At-Home learning students.

Students who choose At-Home Learning will engage in daily activities that combine live teacher-led instruction along with independent learning. A structured schedule will be provided, and students are expected to be online and engaged in learning during normal school hours throughout the school week. Attendance for online courses is mandatory through TEA.

For our students who choose to attend In-Person classes, Burkeville ISD will remain focused on keeping our students and staff safe and healthy. However, as school progresses there may be changes in state and country health guidance and modifications to the current educational setting. This may need to be altered in the best interest of your students and staff. If this needs to take place, BISD will notify the students, parents and community of these changes.

We know that you and your family likely have many questions before you can make this important decision. For this reason, on July 16, 2020 at the BISD website the In-Person Learning and At-Home Learning plans will be posted. Then, on July 22, 2020 you will receive an email from Burkeville ISD asking you to make a commitment for your child(ren) to choose either In-Person or At-Home Learning. You may also access this form on our BISD website or Facebook page. In order for BISD to finalize staffing requirements, we are asking that this commitment be made no later than 8:00 a.m. on Monday, July

29, 2020. Your child's schedule and teacher assignments cannot be finalized until we receive your commitment, so please consider completing the form as soon as possible. Students will be expected to remain in their chosen option through at least a 6-week grading period in order to limit scheduling and staffing complexities. We understand that circumstances could change for our families throughout the semester, and adjustments will be examined on a case-by-case basis.

We will continue to share new information and updates with you as the summer progresses. The Board of Trustees, administrators, and staff appreciate your support and understanding as we work through these trying times. Together, we will support each and every student on their learning journey.

Please continue to stay safe and enjoy the rest of your summer.

Sincerely,

Ann Gardner