



# Bagley Public Schools

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 162

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
202 BAGLEY AVENUE NW  
BAGLEY, MN 56621  
TEL (218) 694-6184  
FAX (218) 694-3221  
[www.bagley.k12.mn.us](http://www.bagley.k12.mn.us)

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS Dr. Erich Heise

August 4, 2020

Dear ISD 162 Families and Staff,

On July 30, Governor Walz issued Executive Order 20-82 and announced Minnesota’s “Safe Learning Plan” for the 2020-2021 school year. This plan provides a framework for Minnesota public school districts to decide the appropriate learning model for the beginning of the school year.

The governor’s order includes a series of steps school districts must take, in consultation with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), when deciding which learning model to implement.

## STAY SAFE MN

### How do schools determine their safe learning model?

- ✓ Based on local COVID-19 data, experts at the Departments of Health and Education will partner with local school districts and charter schools to help determine if schools begin the year in-person, distance learning, or a hybrid of both.
- ✓ Local school districts use this guidance and community expertise to make their plans for the 2020-2021 school year.
- ✓ Public schools communicate their plan to parents and students and emphasize that plans are likely to change as the pandemic evolves and that they will continue to offer a distance learning option should a parent choose to keep their student home.

2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR



### Safe learning models:

 Distance learning

 Hybrid learning

 In-person learning



#### SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

*Pursuing Educational Excellence for All*

CHAIRPERSON  
*Adam Broden*

CLERK  
*Jamie Grover*

TREASURER  
*Amy Fontaine*

DIRECTOR  
*Renee Benson*

DIRECTOR  
*Jeremy Davies*

DIRECTOR  
*Wendy Fultz*

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School districts are required to use 14-day, county-level coronavirus case rates as a baseline for decision-making, which will change throughout the school year as the COVID-19 situation evolves.

**Selecting a learning model for school opening** **STAY SAFE MN**

Number of cases per 10,000 over 14 days, by county of residence	Learning model
0-9	In-person learning for all students
10-19	In person learning for elementary students; hybrid learning for secondary students
20-29	Hybrid learning for all students
30-49	Hybrid learning for elementary students; distance learning for secondary students
50+	Distance learning for all students

7/30/2020 5

School districts are required to consult with public health officials and community members (District Advisory Committee), negotiate with employee unions, and submit their plan to MDE by August 25. Plans must include the following assurances regarding health and safety protocols:

**Required for In-Person and Hybrid Learning**

- Masking Policy
- PPE for direct support student services
- Build routines of hygiene education & practices
- Daily cleaning and frequent cleaning of high touch surfaces throughout the day
- Building level COVID-19 program coordinator, with optional student counterpart
- Limiting nonessential visitors/volunteers/external groups
- Discontinue large gatherings/activities that do not allow for social distancing
- Monitoring and excluding for illness

**Required for Hybrid Learning**

- Social distancing of 6 feet at all times in school buildings
- School facilities at 50% capacity
- Transportation at 50% capacity
- Sufficient staffing levels to meet the requirements of the model

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It is important to note, given the numerous MDE and MDH health and safety requirements, that in-person learning will not look or feel the same for students and staff as we are accustomed to. Hybrid learning, where half of the students are in school and half are at home doing distance learning, presents serious challenges for our district due to logistical and staffing concerns (not to mention the constant disruption this would cause for families). We learned valuable lessons through our recent experience with distance learning, and we will make improvements that will benefit students, parents, and staff.

Minnesota's "Safe Learning Plan for 2020-21" requires school districts to provide "an equitable distance learning model to all families who choose not to attend in-person learning." In order for the District to plan for the start of school, families will need to let the District know as soon as possible if they wish to opt for distance learning. A form to provide this information will be posted on our website this week.

It is our goal to have students, faculty and staff in school as much as possible and to resume normal activities as soon as possible. In order for this to happen, we all need to do our part to reduce the number of COVID-19 cases in our county: wear face coverings when indoors; practice social distancing; wash our hands; and stay home when sick.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we deal with a very complex and challenging situation for the first time. We will do our best to keep our community informed as we work through the required steps and as decisions are made.

Sincerely,

Erich K. Heise, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

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