



113 N. COURT ST. / P.O. BOX 2027 / BUENA VISTA, CO 81211

BV SCHOOLS COVID Update - August 10, 2020

Beginning June 1-August 31, 2020, Superintendent Lisa Yates will provide a weekly update each Monday to families regarding the re-opening of schools in the fall. The written and/or video updates will be delivered via email and/or text and posted on the district website. As well, families can join a virtual meeting by Zoom each Monday at 5:00-5:45 pm to exchange information and ask questions. The intent is to have on-going and up-to-date communication with families as we look ahead to learning for our students in the fall.

NEW

- *School opens for students on August 27 and 28!* One of the best times of the year as an educator is the anticipation and preparation to return to school! Of course, we all enjoy summer, but it pales in comparison to getting to reunite with students and the privilege of walking alongside them in their academic and personal growth. A reminder August 27 and 28 will be half days with elementary ending at 11:30 and middle and high school ending at 11:45 am. This will allow us to open carefully as we implement [mitigation strategies](#).

NEW

- *Position to Open In Person is approached enthusiastically and carefully.* Since May, BV Schools school staff have been preparing, with support and guidance from Chaffee County Public Health, our local medical providers, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), Center for Disease Control (CDC), and other state health partners to open our schools, “every student, every day.” We firmly believe in-person learning is critical for the long term and overall health of our community, as long as our community remains in *mild to moderate spread* with strong capacity to respond to outbreaks. Our community leaders, as well as guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) soundly agree with this approach. You can read the CDC’s position to reopen schools here. [The Importance of Reopening America's Schools this Fall](#).

NEW

- *Information builds COURAGE and LEANING IN.* We all are holding a measure of anxiety as we consider the return to school. Thank you for also holding courage as we do so together. We understand that having information about the procedures and practices in place to mitigate risk help build assurances, and so, courage. **For that reason, we have consolidated all [Re-Opening Resources](#) here.** This provides a single resource to access information. To highlight a few resources:

- Last week, each principal shared a video about what to expect in returning to school. I encourage you, if you have not already, to view your child’s school video, found below.
- We also have a [Health/Operations FAQ](#) we will continuously update to share the new strategies we have in place to reduce the spread of COVID in our schools and how we will respond to both illness in school and to positive cases. Chaffee County Public

Health, with guidance from our state public health, is finalizing frameworks for our school nurses and administration to use when responding to symptomatic students at school and responding when a positive case is confirmed within our school.

- This week, we have added to the Health and Operations FAQ a link that outlines [Guidance for setting up classrooms for distancing and hygiene](#). This provides more information about what you and your child can expect.
- Families can support our practices by modeling and practicing [good handwashing hygiene](#) at home.

NEW

- August weekly updates continue on Monday evenings, 5:00-5:45 pm via Zoom. As we plan together as a BV Schools Family, Question and Answer time will continue. The Zoom information is below.

Information below is from 8/03/2020 as a reference and also contains login information for the upcoming virtual meeting each Monday at 5:00-5:45 pm

- **Monday Weekly Zoom Meeting: Each Monday, 5:00-5:45 pm**, the district will host a virtual meeting using ZOOM to keep families up-to-date on re-opening in the fall. The meeting allows time for exchange of information and questions related to the written update. Please link here to join or you can also access from the BV Schools Website.

Join Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88194973396?pwd=OXl3MTdoeElCSXFoWDRBOUkvWHFFdz09>

Meeting ID: 881 9497 3396

Password: 5it5xX

By phone: +1 253 215 8782

- These are “unprecedented” times. How often have we heard the words, *disrupted, unprecedented, novel, divided* and *uncertain* to describe the times. Certainly they are all accurate, and yet these times are also filled with *curiosity, connection, and an abundance of courage*. In the midst of a simpler, slower pace, many of us have also wrestled these last months with a lost sense of control; the patterns and routines of daily life have been *disrupted*, and plans for future events left *uncertain*. A friend and colleague sent these words to me this weekend: *Sometimes all you can do is accept there’s not much you can do. And sometimes all you can control is how well you let go of control.*” Within these words I hear a call to more *courage*. *Courage* is not, not being afraid or anxious. *Courage* is a “*leaning in*” with more *curiosity* than defense and more *connection* than resistance. There is opportunity for personal and collective growth, to become even more of who we are made to be individually and together, when we choose *curiosity, connection, and an abundance of courage*. Our school district staff has spent the last ten weeks enthusiastically and carefully preparing our schools to open in person for our students. Over the next few weeks, we

will continue to refine plans and re-create lessons with more intention, challenge, and engagement than ever before. Each day, I am more amazed at the caliber of the instructional expertise and commitment of the entire staff in creating the safest, most caring and challenging environment for students possible. Families and students, we know you, too, have been focused on being ready for a return to school. You have been working hard to stay mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually healthy throughout these times. It has not been easy; we know you have been battling a roller-coaster of emotions and questions. When I think of the many faces that make up the staff, students, families, and supporters of this school district, I am confident and proud knowing there is not a better group to come together, for each other, amidst the disruption and uncertainty, to make this the best school year yet. I am sure of it. Let's *lean in*. Embrace this time with *curiosity, connection and an abundance of courage*. Please view the 10 minute [District Video](#) update for information about reopening our schools.

- Principals provide more details about the specific operations and academic routines as we move to re-open to in person learning as well as plans should we need to move to remote learning. Below you will find a link to a general district video highlighting our excitement and care in re-opening to in person learning in a little over three weeks, followed by a video from each principal. These videos provide more specific information about how each school will operate in the green, blue, and red levels. In addition, you can access the [ReOpening Document](#) here. Within the document, there are links with written plans for each school regarding what to expect at the [Green](#), [Blue](#), [Red](#) Levels. You can also find information about [Homebound Learning](#) here. We hope these offer you and your students some certainty even in an uncertain time.
 - [District Overview](#) Video
 - [The Grove](#) Opening Video
 - [Avery Parsons](#) Opening Video and [Slides](#)
 - [Buena Vista Middle School](#) Opening Video
 - [Buena Vista High School](#) Opening Video and [Slides](#)
 - [CCHS](#) Opening Video
- August 27, 28 will be half days for in person learning at K-12 grade. Preschool begins after Labor Day as noted on the District calendar. To provide staff needed time to implement and revise new practices that mitigate risk in our schools, the first two student days, August 27 and 28 will be half days of in person learning for students. Avery Parsons will begin at normal start time and release at 11:30 am. Middle and High School will also begin at normal start time and release at 11:45 am. Having this gradual opening will allow us all a slower and more calculated, responsive return to school. We can hardly wait! A little more than three weeks!
- Jump Start to Kindergarten and Kindergarten screening Because our incoming kindergarteners did not have an orientation experience, the district is offering a two day experience for students entering kindergarten this year. Please see the [Jump Start to Kindergarten flyer](#) here to learn more and register. Also, all families are encouraged to register for a screening visit with our preschool. [Screening information](#) can be found here.
- General Operations/Health FAQ As we move closer to the opening of our schools, we are making available an [Operations/Health FAQ](#) as reference. Over the summer, we have been collecting questions families and staff have or anticipate having, and are providing responses through this link. We will keep this FAQ updated as we receive new or changed information. Included in this information, I want to highlight a mitigation strategy we are using that is an evidence-based ionization product added to our ventilation systems. As well, we will have portable oxidation and UV light systems, all adding layers of sanitization and disinfection to our practices. Please see more details in the description of [mitigation strategies](#) being used across the district.

- August weekly updates continue on Monday evenings, 5:00-5:45 pm via Zoom. As we plan together as a BV Schools Family, Question and Answer time will continue. The Zoom information is below.