

Bismarck-Henning CUSD #1

Return-to-School Plan - Draft

2020-21 School Year

Introduction:

The education of our youth is a most vital responsibility even as we navigate this unprecedented time in world history. Our efforts in creating this plan reflect our best efforts to accomplish this while also adhering to protocols of health and safety. Even though school will look very different in some ways, our commitment to excellence remains strong. We thank you in advance for understanding that we will remain flexible as details of this document change from time to time as the need arises.

BHCUSD's Plan for the start of 2020-21 school year:

- **BHCUSD's Primary plan will be to conduct "in-person" classes five days per week.**
 - We will run an in-person start time of 8:05 at BHES and 8:10 at BHJH and dismiss at 2:10 at BHJH and 3:05 at BHES each day until further notice.
 - Students will attend classes as normal and receive instruction in all core content as well as specials such as music, PE, and library.
 - Aug 20 Teachers Institute
 - Aug 21 Teachers Institute
 - Aug 24 Teachers Institute
 - **Aug 25 Student attendance begins**
 - **Aug 26 Student attendance**
 - Aug 27 Teachers Institute
 - Aug 28 Teachers Institute
 - **Aug 31 Student attendance**
- Students will also have the opportunity to choose an optional plan of "**remote-learning.**" (Remote Learning - Student is learning from home via technology at the guidance of their classroom teacher)
 - Students will not be allowed to move back and forth between in-person and remote learning. Once a decision is made, a student will stay with that decision until the end of the quarter.

Safety Practices to Follow:

Face Coverings

- Students **MUST** wear a face covering that covers the mouth and nose at all times.
 - Exceptions:
 - At lunch when eating
 - Outdoors when able to maintain proper social distancing (defined as at least 6 feet apart from others)
 - While playing a musical instrument that requires breath
 - Acceptable face coverings include:
 - Face Masks (worn correctly covering the mouth and nose)
 - Neck Gaiters (worn correctly around the mouth and nose)
 - Parents are encouraged to provide face coverings for their students. The district will have face coverings available should a student need one.
- Students refusing to wear a face covering will not be allowed to attend school and will be sent home.
- Students who regularly are removing their face covering and/or not wearing it properly will be addressed through the standard disciplinary procedure.

Other Measures

- Classroom movable desks/tables will be set up in rows facing the same direction and will be spread out as much as possible.
- Classroom desks/tables will be cleaned routinely throughout the day.
- Signs will be posted that reinforce proper safety protocols.
- Hallway flow:
 - Taped lines on the floor will mark the walking direction throughout the building in order to maintain the social distancing. One-way traffic patterns will be strictly observed during hallway times/passing periods.
 - Students will not be allowed to congregate before school or after school.
- Students will be given assigned seats in classrooms and buses to more easily track exposure to COVID.
- Hand sanitizer will be readily available in all classrooms. Students will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer upon entering and leaving classrooms and after using a shared object.
- Students will be encouraged to:
 - Stay home if they are sick.
 - Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

- Teachers are expected to keep contractual staff hours to provide opportunities for remote learners to contact for help.

Remote Learning

- In order to improve on the effectiveness of remote learning, the following changes will be put in place:
 - Grades will continue to be taken. Student grades can go down.
 - Google Classroom will be the technology “hub”. BHES will also use Dojo for communication with parents and students.
 - There will be an increase in teacher-directed instruction, either through live or recorded videos.
 - As appropriate, students may follow a daily schedule where they will log into classes at certain times.
 - Attendance will be taken on a daily basis.
- It is possible that we could have to close the school and move to full-time remote learning for all students due to an outbreak of COVID-19 cases. That decision would either be made by the State moving back to Phase 3 or locally by consulting with the Vermilion County Health Department. The duration of a closer to remote learning could vary from a single day to weeks at a time.
- Parents should begin planning now for possible child care should the district have to close and transition to full-time remote learning.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Question:

Is there any time where a student can remove their mask?

Answer:

Students may remove their masks at lunch to eat, and when they are outside. In both instances they must first maintain social distancing.

Question:

Are there any exemptions to wearing a mask?

Answer:

As of now there are none. All students must be able to wear a mask to school.

Question:

Will the remote learning option be the same as the in-person learning?

Answer:

Question:

What is the protocol if a student or teacher tests positive for COVID-19? Who will have to be quarantined?

Answer:

Persons who had close contact with that individual will need to be quarantined. Close contact is being within 6 feet for 15 consecutive minutes.

Question:

How will the school notify parents and staff if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the school?

Answer:

There will be a general announcement of notification. Parents of students who may have been exposed (within 6 feet for 15 min) will be notified individually. The names of the students will not be released.

Question:

Is it possible that the school could adopt a different plan at some point that might affect the attendance of students?

Answer:

Yes. There has been much discussion about several other plans that could come into play this school year. The most likely would be a "Blended" plan that combines In-person learning and Remote Learning.

- **Blended Plan:**

- Our Blended plan would divide students in each grade into two groups based primarily on their last name. This would essentially create an "A" and "B" schedule for all students. Group "A" students would attend school two days a week and Group "B" students would also attend school two days a week. The "off" day would be an all remote day for all students with the potential for more individualized services. Students who receive services through an IEP, 504 plan or English language support would be offered the opportunity to attend in-person each day.
- Administrators have already organized students into groups just in case this plan is needed. This was done by being careful to assign siblings to the same in-person days that align with students in both Bismarck-Henning Rossville-Alvin district and the BHCUSD district to be prepared in the event that either or both also shift to a blended plan.
- Students who are at a higher risk of severe illness if exposed to COVID-19 would still be offered the opportunity to continue with remote learning.