

August 2020

Bald Knob Public Schools

Ready for Learning Re-Entry Plan



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Introduction

The Bald Knob Public Schools Ready for Learning Committee has worked diligently to create a well developed plan for BKPS re-entry to school. We extend our gratitude to the committee members for their selfless effort and support. We are ready to bring back the Bulldogs!

Shelly Anderson, Elementary Media Specialist

Jennifer Byrd, Digital Learning Coach

Cassie Cooley, Early Childhood Special Education

Tammi Dantoni, Technology Coordinator

Marcy Dugger, Director of Federal & Special Programs

Allan Fairbanks, High School Assistant Principal

Lynn Garner, Elementary Assistant Principal

LaDonna Gibson, School Board Member

Melissa Gipson, Superintendent

Becky Green, Director of Facilities and Transportation

Megan Hartle, High School FACE Coordinator

Angela Kindrex, Middle School Principal

Darla Ino, Community Member

Andrea Mason, School Nurse

Cale McGillvray, School Board Member

Lisa Mason, Food Service Director

Lisa Moore, Elementary Principal & LEA

Stephaine Muckelberg, Middle School Counselor

Brent Roberts, High School Teacher

Curtis Shannon, Director of Maintenance & Dean of Students

Sarah Shannon, High School Principal & AD

Amy Stephens, Community Member

Whitney Swindle, School Nurse

Stacy White, Community Member

Kelly Whitley, Community Member

Jamie Williams, Community Member

State of Arkansas Guidance

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), and Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) have released guidance regarding the reopening of school. Below are pertinent links to these sources of important information.

[Centers for Disease Control](#)

[Arkansas Department of Health](#)

[Arkansas Department of Education: Ready for Learning](#)

[Bald Knob Public Schools: Bringing Back the Bulldogs Reentry Plan](#)

School Calendar: Start Date

Bald Knob Public Schools will open K-12 campuses on August 24 for on-site instruction.

Curriculum

Bald Knob Public Schools has partnered with the Arkansas Department of Education and the Arkansas Public Schools Resource Center to provide a guaranteed and viable curriculum that will ensure continuity of teaching and learning both on-site and remotely. Our teaching staff will utilize the Lincoln Learning curriculum and our local instructional units based on essential standards to provide instruction both at school and remotely. The instructional materials will be accessed by students through a learning management system called Buzz. Buzz is the means by which we will organize lessons, assessments, and monitor progress. By utilizing Lincoln Learning and the Buzz Learning Management System, students will have the continuity of teaching and learning regardless of location.

Unfinished Learning

During the weeks of August 31-September 11, teachers will screen students and teach essential standards that were not taught or mastered during last year's school closure.

Units of instruction and resources provided in the DESE Playbook will be used as a guide.

Diagnostic Assessments

Diagnostic assessments will be utilized to inform teachers of what level students are currently performing at and what interventions are needed to fill in any learning gaps. Those needs will be addressed in the classroom and during intervention periods.

Options for Learning

There are two options for students:

[Blended On-Site Learning](#)

[Virtual Off-Site Learning](#)

Please see the [2020-2021 Instructional Options for Learning](#) for a comparison of the options.

Blended On-Site Learning

Blended learning is an option provided to families preferring in-person instruction at school. The goal of this option is to provide as “traditional” of a school day setting as possible when students return to school. BKPS recognizes the importance of teacher to student interaction as well as student to student.

Blended on-site learning will consist of face-to-face instruction on-site in a classroom with interaction between teachers, students, and content on a digital platform. Students will interact with the digital platform for various assignments and assessments. The integrated use of the digital platform at school in addition to face to face instruction will provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to continue learning remotely at home in the event of a school closure.

Benefits

- Equity: This model encourages ALL learners to be extraordinary communicators, collaborators, creators and critical thinkers while promoting equity for ALL learners.

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- Safety: We are initiating a safety plan that will minimize the risk to both students and staff.
 - Instruction: Effective instruction is grounded in best practices such as teacher modeling, student communication and collaboration, and authentic in-person opportunities to support students' academic and social-emotional needs in real time.
 - Flexibility: As our community continues to re-open and parents/guardians return to work, this model best supports the school-home partnership while also effectively addressing student growth.
 - Homeroom/Block Schedule: The Blended Learning Model allows students to lessen the amount of transitions between classrooms during the school day.
 - Face-to-Face: This model maximizes effective face-to-face instruction between teachers and students.
 - Differentiation: Promotes opportunities to differentiate in the classroom to address student growth, lessen the amount of transitions with more time spent on learning face-to-face with teachers and peers.

Grades K-5 Schedule

K-5 students will remain in one classroom throughout the school day with the exception of lunch, recess, or other outdoor instruction. Grades 3-5 will continue to have a rotation of teachers for various content areas; however, the teachers themselves will rotate to the classroom of students.

Every homeroom schedule includes the following:

- English Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science and Social Studies
- Related Arts Opportunities
- Breakfast/Lunch
- Recess and Frequent Movement Breaks
- Social-Emotional Learning

Grades 6-12 Schedule

In keeping with the desire to maintain as traditional of a class as possible, the blended learning plan for on-site students includes switching classes in Grades 6-12 but minimizing the number of transitions.

Students in grades 6-12 will utilize a block schedule this year. Students will still be able to take the same number of classes as they did on a regular 9 period day, but they will have four periods a day with 80 minutes in each class.

This sample secondary schedule reflects the structure of a student's possible schedule. Four periods a day with lunch embedded in third period and RTI immediately following. Each class is 80 minutes long.

	Monday (A day)	Tuesday (B Day)	Wednesday (A Day)	Thursday (B Day)	Friday (A Day)
1st Period (7:50-9:10)	English	History	English	History	English
2nd Period (9:15-10:35)	Band	Math	Band	Math	Band
3rd Period (10:40-12:45) Lunch is embedded	Science	Business	Science	Business	Science
RTI (12:50-1:35)	Remediation Enrichment	Remediation/ Enrichment	Remediation/ Enrichment	Remediation/ Enrichment	Remediation/ Enrichment
4th Period (1:40-3:00)	Athletics	Spanish	Athletics	Spanish	Athletics

Learning Supports for Families

Technology

- Each student will be provided with the following for blended and virtual learning:
 - Chromebook and charger
 - Buzz access
 - Tutorials
- Families have daily access to the following:
 - Tech Support Email: tech.support@baldknobschools.org
 - Phone Conference: 501-232-1226
 - Video Conference
- Families who do not have adequate internet access to support virtual learning during times of closure will have access to the following:
 - MiFi Device
 - Wireless Internet Access Points
 - Paper Based Instruction (limited to extreme cases)
- FACE Parent Training
 - Blended & LMS Training: August 31st and September 1st (Parent Selected)
 - 4:00-5:00
 - 5:30-6:30
 - 7:00-8:00

Academic

- Teachers will be available to provide academic support whether we are on or off-site. This includes students in the virtual academy.
 - Email: [Link to Teacher Contact Information](#)
 - Phone call: [Link to Teacher Contact Information](#)
 - Zoom/Google Meet Conference
 - Zoom/Google Meet office hours
 - Message through learning platform
 - Message through Remind 101, Class Dojo, or Talking Points

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- In person conference by appointment with health and safety guidelines in place
 - Special Populations will be continually supported through implementation of their collaboratively developed IEPs. Teachers will be in consistent contact with families to ensure continuity of services. Zoom

Physical Support

Bald Knob community has a number of community resources available for those in need. A running list will be made available to parents in each buildings' FACE information packet and in our COVID-19 information link on the district webpage. The list of community resources can also be found at the following link: [Community Resources Link](#)

Support and resources for students experiencing homelessness will be provided through the counselors' offices at each school. Counselors will work with community partnerships to support students in need.

The counselors' offices at each building are poised and ready to support the needs of students.

Arrival/Dismissal

Arrival and dismissal procedures will be set at each school by the building principal. More information on updated procedures will be provided by your school principal prior to the start of the year.

All employees and visitors will be required to complete the BKPS COVID-19 Health Screening PRIOR to entering a school building beyond the main lobby.

Face coverings will be required for all students in Grades 4-12, employees, and visitors per BKPS Board Policy (1.23).

Upon arrival, students will be encouraged to enter the building and wash their hands or use hand sanitizer.

When a family member arrives at school to check a student out early, they should use the intercom button to notify the school staff, and the school staff will check personal ID to allow the student to check out.

Once the student arrives in the office, the family member may check the student out following the school's protocol.

Tardies

Parents/guardians will use the button for entry into the main entrance of the building and will communicate the reason for the tardy. Students will enter the building, check in to the office, and go directly to class. When possible, families are asked to call in, email, or scan any documentation such as doctor's notes to the school attendance office.

Bus Riders

Parents/guardians are asked to bring their child to school. This will assist in mitigating transmission on the school bus and create greater social distancing for those without other means of transportation.

Families are responsible for checking the temperature of students riding the bus prior to entering the school bus in the morning. Students will use hand sanitizer upon entering the school bus.

K-12 students will be required to wear a face covering while riding the bus.

Parents who are concerned about social distancing on the bus should plan to bring their child to school.

Bus Rider Morning Drop Off Maps

- [Link to Bus Rider Morning Drop Off Maps](#)

Bus Rider Afternoon Pick Up Maps

- [Link to Bus Rider Afternoon Pick Up Maps](#)

Car Riders

Car riders will be greeted with a smile full of love and touch free greetings. Each student will open and close their own car door as a means of mitigating transmission.

Car Rider Drop Off and Pick Up Maps

- [Link to Car Rider Drop Off and Pick Up Maps](#)

BKPS Health Screening

The health and safety of students and adults is a top priority for our district. This will continue as we reopen school in the fall. While we cannot guarantee students and staff will not become ill, we will do all we can to ensure a healthy learning environment for students and staff.

K-12 Students

All K-12 students will have their temperatures taken with no-touch thermometers as they exit the bus or vehicle prior to entering the building.

If the temperature is over 99.9 degrees, the student will be sent home and will need to be fever free for 24 hours without medication before returning to school. When the student returns to school, they will check in with the school nurse.

Employees and Adults

All BKPS employees and adults will be screened daily prior to reporting to school, entering a school building.

- In the last 14 days, have you been in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19?
- Do you have an unexplained cough?
- Do you have difficulty breathing?
- Do you have a sore throat?
- Do you have loss of taste or smell?
- Have you been tested for COVID-19 in the last 14 days?

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- Have you had a fever greater than 99.9 in the last 48 hours?
 - What is your current temperature?

If an employee or adult answers “yes” to any of the screening questions, take the following precautions:

- An employee is directed to contact the district’s Point of Contact at 501-203-9615.
- An adult is directed to not come to school and contact your health provider.

Face Coverings

The Bald Knob Board of Education adopted a new district policy requiring all students in Grades 4-12 and all BKPS staff members to wear a face covering over the nose and mouth when attending school or a school function.

Policy 1.23 Face Coverings

The Board of Education is mindful of the evolving need for emergency measures to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. In consideration of the recommendations issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Arkansas Department of Health, and the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Board is adopting this emergency policy for all students, employees and visitors of Bald Knob Public Schools. Since respiratory droplets are the primary way that COVID-19 is transmitted, masks/face coverings are among the most critical components of risk reduction. Therefore, all teachers, staff, and students in Grade 4-12 will be required to wear a face mask or other approved face covering that covers their mouth and nose while on District grounds, with limited exceptions.

Students

The ADH provides a detailed description as to what constitutes a safe and effective face covering. That information may be read at

https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/pdf/guidance_face_coverings.pdf

- Acceptable masks include personal masks, disposable masks, homemade masks, handkerchiefs, and scarves. Bandanas are not allowed.

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- Personal reusable masks must meet Code of Student Conduct requirements and not be inappropriate or derogatory in nature.
 - Transparent masks may be the best option for both teachers and students in classes for deaf and hard of hearing students. They may also be useful for teachers and younger students who rely on visual / facial cues.
 - Face shields may be an option for those students with medical, behavioral, or other challenges who are unable to wear masks/face coverings.

Mask guidelines — including proper mask use and handling — will be communicated to parents, students, and employees, and schools will set aside instructional time to train students. Parents are encouraged to start having their student(s) begin to wear a face covering prior to the start of the school year.

For those with specific health conditions that require they not wear a face covering, a physician's note shall be provided to the school nurse stating the health condition that prohibits a face covering. Students may be exempted from this policy due to special behavioral or individualized needs as determined by the student's IEP team.

BKPS will supply three (3) face masks for each student. If a student comes to school without a mask on, the district will provide a mask for the student.

Not wearing a mask is not an option unless an individual has a specific health condition, or special behavioral or individualized needs that require the individual to not wear a face mask. Students who refuse to wear a mask or face covering at school or at a school function under this policy shall be required to leave the school campus consistent with the student handbook policy on student dress.

Students may remove face masks (take a "mask break") when:

- Eating or drinking if seated six feet away from others.
- Seated at desks or assigned work spaces at least 6 feet apart.
- Engaged in any activity for which maintaining at least 6 feet apart is assured (e.g. face mask breaks, outdoor P.E., etc.).
- When masks are removed, they must be placed below the chin, in a pocket or on the lap. Masks should not be placed on tabletops or other communal surfaces.

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- Students will be provided opportunities to take “mask breaks” and remove their masks as appropriate, such as during mealtimes, and when outdoors and more than six feet apart from other people. Mask breaks will be 15 minutes maximum.
 - Teachers will have the discretion to remove a mask while teaching if they are able to maintain at least 12-feet of physical distance from their students.

Buses

The District will continue to provide bus transportation to its students. All K-12 students who elect to ride the bus will be required to wear a face covering, unless it is determined to be a greater health risk, according to the student’s medical provider. Siblings or students who live together may be assigned to sit together. Students should wear a face covering and physically distance when possible while at the bus stop. Bus drivers will also disinfect between routes. Hand sanitizer will be available on all buses. Students will sanitize their hands upon entry onto the bus. Buses are prepared to run at full capacity; however, if at all possible parents are encouraged to drop-off/pick-up students, carpool or walk to reduce exposure on buses. Additional seating expectations will be shared with schools and parents. Bus transportation may be modified or reduced in accordance with ADH guidance.

Support Needed from Parents/Guardians

- Ensure that your student(s)’ immunizations/ wellness checks are up-to-date.
- Stress the importance of the utilization of masks/face coverings, adhering to social distancing, and regularly washing their hands, both at school and away from school. Please take time to demonstrate these actions with our younger students.
- Support the effective communication among students, parents, and staff members, which is even more critical now.

Employees

All District employees shall be required to wear a face covering while working or attending a school function in any school building, facility or other area of a school campus. All face coverings must cover the nose and mouth of the employee. Employees shall wear face coverings at all times except for the following:

- Employees may remove face coverings for eating and drinking;

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- Employees may remove face coverings when appropriate social distancing measures are in place;
 - Employees may be exempted from this policy by the school principal or the Superintendent due to a documented medical condition of the employee; or
 - Employees may remove face coverings on a case-by-case basis for specific instructional needs and other activities, as determined by a teacher, in which case the teacher will utilize appropriate social distancing measures.

Employees who refuse to wear a face covering at school or at a school function under this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, including and up to termination or nonrenewal of the employee's contract.

Visitors

Until further action of the Board, all District visitors shall be required to wear a mask or face covering while present in any school building, facility or other area of a school campus.

Handwashing

Reduces the spread of infections, including COVID-19, and is recommended by CDC and ADH to be a part of the educational plan for students.

Students will receive hand washing instruction at the beginning of the year by our school nurses. Handwashing will be integrated into the instructional model throughout the day for all students.

Students and staff should wash their hands for at least 20 seconds (approximately the length of singing the "Happy Birthday" song twice).

School Supplies

At Bald Knob Public Schools, we recognize the importance of our students being well-equipped for learning. We are very excited to announce that the district will provide school supplies for all K-12 grade students for the 2020-2021 school year except for backpacks. Supplies will not be grouped for sharing and will be assigned to individual students.

Classrooms

Class sizes will depend on student enrollment. K-12 student schedules are developed to limit transitions throughout the day. Classroom desks are spaced to maximize physical distancing as much as feasible. While classroom spaces do not allow for 6 feet of physical distance between students, teachers have arranged seating to create as much physical distancing as possible. Students will be assigned a specific space/seating chart.

Employees will modify instructional plans to reduce student contact, sharing of materials, or equipment and maintain appropriate social distancing to the greatest possible extent. Students will utilize their own school supplies. School supplies will not be shared by students. Outdoor learning spaces will be available where the activity lends itself to being outside.

Meal Service

Students will be charged for meals based on their meal benefit eligibility status.

K-5 students will have breakfast served in the classroom. All other meals will be served in the cafeteria of each building following Arkansas Department of Health guidance.

Depending upon the response level deemed by the Arkansas Department of Health and Arkansas Department of Education, students may eat in their classroom rather than in the cafeteria. There will be no self-serve menu items (salad bar, fruit bar, etc.).

On Remote Learning Days, parents may pick up a meal pack. Orders must be made by the Friday before each week begins. Please click the following link to order meals: [Meal Order Form Packs](#). K-12 meal packs must be picked up on Mondays between 9:30-10:00 AM at the ***elementary cafeteria***.

Libraries

Details regarding library use will be communicated by the building principal.

Class Transitions

Transition times and procedures will be communicated by the principal.

Hallways

- Staff will monitor hallways and bathrooms during transition times.
- The use of lockers will be suspended.
- Students should remain on the right side of the hallway in the direction they are headed.

K-5 Art, Music, and PE

BKPS will offer art, music, and PE in each homeroom. When appropriate, music and PE instruction will be provided outside in accordance with the guidance provided by the ADH.

Band, Athletics, & Choir

Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) offerings will be provided as allowed.

Group Work/Labs

Students should not share school supplies, manipulatives, or lab equipment. Students can still share ideas and work in collaborative groups (i.e. online projects, socially distanced classroom space, hallways, and outdoor learning).

Teachers will not assign materials to students that other students are required to touch or share.

Students can collaborate and work in teams without working close together as feasible.

Outdoor Recess (K-5)

Recess will continue to be 40 minutes each day. Students will wash their hands after recess when they reenter the building.

Water Bottle Refilling Stations

At this time, drinking fountains will not be utilized due to health concerns. Students are encouraged to bring a filled water bottle from home each day. Water bottle refilling stations will be open for students to refill their water bottles as needed.

Technology

BKPS is a 1:1 district with all K-12 students having an assigned device provided for learning. Device distribution will occur in August upon the return to school for any blended on-site learning student. Chromebooks/devices will be assigned for use by one student per chromebook/device. The charger will be brought to and from school each day. Students will need to bring the device fully charged each day.

GoGuardian will be used to monitor all Chromebook activity. This program allows us to manage Chromebook activity regardless of location of the devices.

Students experiencing problems with their device or internet access should contact Tech Support to problem solve any issues.

- Email: tech.support@baldknobschools.org
- Phone Number: 501-232-1226

Open House

Open House will be hosted on August 20, 2020 virtually for returning Bald Knob students. More information will be shared by the building principal.

An on-site Open House will be hosted on August 20, 2020 from 5PM - 7PM for students who are transitioning to a new building and/or new to our district.

- 5:00-5:30 A-G (Kindergarten, Sixth, and Ninth Grade Students)
- 5:30-6:00 H-N (Kindergarten, Sixth, and Ninth Grade Students)
- 6:00-6:30 O-Z (Kindergarten, Sixth, and Ninth Grade Students)
- 6:30-7:00 New Bald Knob Students

Activities and Facilities

District travel, field trips, activities, assemblies, and other large gatherings will not likely be allowed first semester and will then be evaluated based on health conditions.

BKPS facilities are closed to outside groups and facility rentals for the fall semester and will be revisited in the spring.

Cleaning

The health and safety of students and adults is a top priority for our district. This will continue as we reopen school in the fall. In support of healthy practices, classrooms and other spaces will be stocked with CDC approved cleaner, towels, wipes, gloves, and masks for intermittent cleaning throughout the day.

Increased daily disinfecting protocols will be conducted in all facilities with a focus on cleaning [key touch points](#). Each classroom will have a sanitizing station just inside the classroom door and alcohol-based wipes.

[CDC guidelines](#) for cleaning and disinfecting will be utilized.

Response Levels: Blended to Hybrid

The ADH and ADE have provided the district with a phased approach that is determined by the amount of spread.

As the district responds to positive COVID-19 cases, under the direction of the Arkansas Department of Health and Arkansas Department of Education, we can expect implications to occur involving on-site instruction.

- At this time, we are entering the school year in the green phase with limited response due to the number of positive COVID-19 cases.
- If the district rises to a moderate response level, the district may consider moving to a hybrid instructional model which limits the number of students on campus in a given day and within a given week.

- When the district is operating a critical response level, instruction may take place at a remote location with minimal small group on-site instruction and special services being provided following restrictions.

If the district were to be placed in a moderate response level and needed to lessen student interaction even more, the hybrid instructional model would be structured in a way that would split classes in half and half of the students in a class would come two consecutive days a week while the other half of the class would come two consecutive days a week with three virtual learning days. Below is a sample “Hybrid” schedule for K-12 students.

Cohort A	Cohort B	Face to Face Days: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differentiated grouping based on student needs • Student engagement models • Mini-lessons • Teachers check-in with students
Day 1 Face to Face	Day 1 Virtual Learning	
Day 2 Face to Face	Day 2 Virtual Learning	
Day 1 Virtual Learning	Day 3 Virtual Learning	Virtual Learning Days <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students lead their own learning through continuation of face-to-face learning • Virtual Common Rooms that allow access to real time support and feedback • Virtual peer collaboration opportunities
Day 2 Virtual Learning	Day 1 Face to Face	
Day 3 Virtual Learning	Day 2 Face to Face	

Future School Closures

With feedback from students, staff, parents/families, and administrators, we have developed a plan for blended learning that allows students to pivot to remote learning as needed.

If school closes again, blended students will be in the perfect position to continue their learning remotely. The district has identified individuals who do not have wifi access and are working to ensure wifi capability. We are aware some families simply will not have wifi

access due to the lack of wifi infrastructure in the area of their homes. The district will have an alternate plan for those families and all students will be served to the best of our capability.

Virtual Off-Site Learning

Overview

The Bald Knob Virtual Academy (BKVA) was developed for the 2020-2021 school year to meet the needs of our students who desire to participate from a remote learning environment: [Bald Knob Virtual Academy Handbook](#).

While we place emphasis on face-to-face instruction, the BKVA provides three benefits: high quality teaching and learning with known Bald Knob teachers, continuity of aligned instruction between on-site and remote learning, and accredited curriculum.

High Quality Teaching and Learning

In the BKVA, Bald Knob students who choose to learn remotely will engage in high quality teaching and learning that will be provided by Bald Knob teachers that students and families know and have relationships with from previous years. This means that a student or family member can reach out to teachers who are physically present in Bald Knob and receive instructional support.

Continuity of Aligned Instruction

The learning that will take place face-to-face in the classroom on a daily basis will be aligned with the learning of students who participate in the virtual academy. Rather than receiving the face-to-face instruction that will occur on-site, students will view lessons in a digital format (such as pre-recorded instruction) provided by the teacher and supplemented through online sources.

Bald Knob Public Schools has partnered with the Arkansas Department of Education and the Arkansas Public School Resource Center to provide a guaranteed and viable curriculum

that will ensure continuity of learning whether a student chooses to learn on-site or remotely. This is a benefit to our students in that if a student desires to return to on-site instruction for any reason, he/she will be able to join his/her classes with ease.

Accredited Curriculum

The BKVA will provide courses that are accredited and seamless to the district's curriculum. This is important for all families to know and understand. Any student who transitions from the virtual academy to on-site learning will be placed according to the curriculum attained in the virtual academy and all credits earned will be correlated to credits required for graduation. In like manner, students will be eligible for honor graduate status and class ranking awards.

Student Commitment

The BKVA is a rigorous program that will require a student to hold specific skill sets. In the virtual academy, student commitment is key. To be successful, students must be independent learners, self motivated, computer literate, good time managers, and effective communicators.

Students who are not on grade level, need professional intervention, or special services may elect to participate in the BKVA but are best served by an on-site school environment.

Students will be encouraged to plan and set goals for due dates in order to submit high quality work.

Assessments and Grading

Teachers will monitor progress weekly. If students are not engaging frequently or making satisfactory progress in their courses, the teacher will contact the student and parent. Additionally, the district's virtual administrator will monitor progress every quarter.

Grading will follow current district policy (minimum of 2 grades/week). Grading will be based on completed work and assessments. Report cards and mid-term reports will be sent home per the school calendar.

BKVA students will be expected to complete mandated diagnostic and standardized testing on campus. The district will provide an alternate testing location that allows virtual students to remain socially distanced from others.

School Activities

Students will be allowed to participate in Bald Knob School's extracurricular activities in accordance with AAA guidelines and club by-laws.

In order for students to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities, the student must be physically present at least one period a day at school.

Students and parents will be in charge of their own transportation to any on-campus activities that he or she needs to attend (meetings, testing, etc).

Time and Learning Expectations

Students are encouraged to plan and set goals for due dates throughout the week.

Students should not save all their work till the last day of the week. Some assignments may take several hours to complete. Setting goals and planning ahead will help students to prepare and submit high quality work.

Communication

Students will receive a list that includes the contact information for the learning lab and their teacher(s). This will allow students to communicate with someone on campus when any questions may arise. Questions sent to the learning lab facilitators will be answered throughout the day. Questions sent to teachers will be answered within 24 hours.

Students, lab facilitators, and teachers will communicate via email, video conference, and phone calls.

Parents will be notified when students are behind two lessons. It is the student's responsibility to email the teacher if extra time is needed.

If a parent or student needs to contact the virtual administrator, please email digital.support@baldknobschools.org or call 501-232-6097.

Schedule

BKVA students will be assigned to the same classes that he/she would have been if they attended school on-site. Virtual students will be provided the opportunity to “work ahead” two weeks at a time in each course. Staying at the same place in instruction is optimum for students in the chance that a student decides to transition to the on-site setting.

Students will be required to complete assignments and assessments no later than the due date provided by the teacher unless other arrangements are made or stated on a student’s IEP. Attendance will be aligned with the student’s progress in an assigned course.

Grade 6-12 students will have an opportunity to participate in on-site face-to-face instruction in certain subjects. Students who choose this option will be required to attend that subject every time the class is in session. Transportation will not be provided.

Technology

Students must have access to a reliable internet connection throughout the duration of student’s enrollment in the BKVA. BKPS will provide a school-owned chromebook to students who enroll in the BKVA. Students and parents must sign the district chromebook agreement before the device will be issued. GoGuardian will be used to monitor all Chromebook activity. This program allows us to manage Chromebook activity regardless of location of the devices.

Students/parents will communicate in a timely manner with the school about technology needs.

Students experiencing problems with their device and/or internet should contact BKPS Tech Support.

- Email: tech.support@baldknobschools.org

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- Sending a screenshot of the problem to this email will assist in the troubleshooting process.
 - Call Center Number: 501-232-1226

Open House

Open House will be hosted virtually on August 20, 2020 for returning Bald Knob students. More information will be shared by the building principal.

Learning Supports for Families

Technology

- Each student will be provided with the following for blended and virtual learning:
 - Chromebook and charger
 - Buzz access
 - Tutorials
- Families have daily access to the following:
 - Tech Support Email: tech.support@baldknobschools.org
 - Phone Conference
 - Video Conference
- Families who do not have adequate internet access to support virtual learning during times of closure will have access to the following:
 - MiFi Device
 - Wireless Internet Access Points
 - Paper Based Instruction (limited to extreme cases)
- FACE Parent Training
 - LMS Training: August 20th (Parent Selected)
 - 4:00-5:00
 - 5:30-6:30
 - 7:00-8:00

Academic

- Teachers will be available to provide academic support whether we are on or off-site. This includes students in the virtual academy.
 - Email
 - Phone call
 - Zoom/Google Meet Conference
 - Zoom/Google Meet office hours
 - Message through learning platform
 - Message through Remind 101, Class Dojo, or Talking Points
 - In person conference by appointment with health and safety guidelines in place
- Special Populations will be continually supported through implementation of their collaboratively developed IEPs. Teachers will be in consistent contact with families to ensure continuity of services. Zoom
- FACE events targeting special populations will be held to support families with special needs including English Language Learners and blended learning.

Learning Labs and Call Centers

Learning Labs will be available to students Monday through Friday from 8:00-3:00. The Learning Lab will allow students to receive additional academic support. Students will need to schedule a time through the learning lab before they report to school. Transportation will not be provided.

Students who need further remediation will have access to online videos, the learning lab, and individually scheduled Zoom meetings.

Elementary School

Students in Elementary School will have access to the Call Center where they may email questions to the learning lab facilitator at ellearninglab@baldknobschools.org. Emails will be resolved during the hours of 8:00 – 3 :00, Monday through Friday.

Phone support is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 – 3:00 by calling 501-232-6640.

Should a student need additional academic support, please contact the learning lab facilitator, and she will arrange a time for a face-to-face meeting at the elementary.

Middle & High School

Students in Middle and High School will also have access to the Call Center where they may email questions to learninglab@baldknobschools.org. Emails will be resolved during the hours of 8:00 – 3 :00, Monday through Friday.

Phone support is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 – 3:00 by calling 501-724-5652 Ext. 115.

Physical Support

Bald Knob community has a number of community resources available for those in need. A running list will be made available to parents in each buildings' FACE information packet and in our COVID-19 information link on the district webpage. The list of community resources can also be found at the following link: [Community Resources Link](#)

Support and resources for students experiencing homelessness will be provided through the counselors' offices at each school. Counselors will work with community partnerships to support students in need.

The counselors' offices at each building are poised and ready to support the needs of students.

BKPS Health Screening

The health and safety of students and adults is a top priority for our district. This will continue as we reopen school in the fall. While we cannot guarantee students and staff will not become ill, we will do all we can to ensure a healthy learning environment for students and staff.

K-12 Students

All K-12 students will have their temperatures taken with no-touch thermometers as they exit the bus or vehicle prior to entering the building.

If the temperature is over 99.9 degrees, the student will be sent home and will need to be fever free for 24 hours without medication before returning to school. When the student returns to school, they will check in with the school nurse.

Employees and Adults

All BKPS employees and adults will be screened daily prior to reporting to school, entering a school building.

- In the last 14 days, have you been in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19?
- Do you have an unexplained cough?
- Do you have difficulty breathing?
- Do you have a sore throat?
- Do you have loss of taste or smell?
- Have you been tested for COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
- Have you had a fever greater than 99.9 in the last 48 hours?
- What is your current temperature?

If an employee or adult answers “yes” to any of the screening questions, take the following precautions:

- An employee is directed to contact the district’s Point of Contact at 501-203-9615.
- An adult is directed to not come to school and contact your health provider.

Face Coverings

The Bald Knob Board of Education adopted a new district policy requiring all students in Grades 4-12 and all BKPS staff members to wear a face covering over the nose and mouth when attending school or a school function.

Policy 1.23 Face Coverings

The Board of Education is mindful of the evolving need for emergency measures to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. In consideration of the recommendations issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Arkansas Department of Health, and the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Board is adopting this emergency policy for all students, employees and visitors of Bald Knob Public Schools. Since respiratory droplets are the primary way that COVID-19 is transmitted, masks/face coverings are among the most critical components of risk reduction. Therefore, all teachers, staff, and students in Grade 4-12 will be required to wear a face mask or other approved face covering that covers their mouth and nose while on District grounds, with limited exceptions.

Students

The ADH provides a detailed description as to what constitutes a safe and effective face covering. That information may be read at

https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/pdf/guidance_face_coverings.pdf

- Acceptable masks include personal masks, disposable masks, homemade masks, handkerchiefs, and scarves. Bandanas are not allowed.
- Personal reusable masks must meet Code of Student Conduct requirements and not be inappropriate or derogatory in nature.
- Transparent masks may be the best option for both teachers and students in classes for deaf and hard of hearing students. They may also be useful for teachers and younger students who rely on visual / facial cues.
- Face shields may be an option for those students with medical, behavioral, or other challenges who are unable to wear masks/face coverings.

Mask guidelines — including proper mask use and handling — will be communicated to parents, students, and employees, and schools will set aside instructional time to train students. Parents are encouraged to start having their student(s) begin to wear a face covering prior to the start of the school year.

For those with specific health conditions that require they not wear a face covering, a physician's note shall be provided to the school nurse stating the health condition that prohibits a face covering. Students may be exempted from this policy due to special behavioral or individualized needs as determined by the District's special education supervisor, Ms. Lisa Moore.

BKPS will supply three (3) face masks for each student. If a student comes to school without a mask on, the district will provide a mask for the student.

Not wearing a mask is not an option unless an individual has a specific health condition, or special behavioral or individualized needs that require the individual to not wear a face mask. Students who refuse to wear a mask or face covering at school or at a school function under this policy shall be required to leave the school campus consistent with the student handbook policy on student dress.

Students may remove face masks (take a "mask break") when:

- Eating or drinking if seated six feet away from others.
- Seated at desks or assigned work spaces at least 6 feet apart.
- Engaged in any activity for which maintaining at least 6 feet apart is assured (e.g. face mask breaks, outdoor P.E., etc.).
- When masks are removed, they must be placed below the chin, in a pocket or on the lap. Masks should not be placed on tabletops or other communal surfaces.
- Students will be provided opportunities to take "mask breaks" and remove their masks as appropriate, such as during mealtimes, and when outdoors and more than six feet apart from other people. Mask breaks will be 15 minutes maximum.
- Teachers will have the discretion to remove a mask while teaching if they are able to maintain at least 12-feet of physical distance from their students.

Buses

The District will continue to provide bus transportation to its students. All K-12 students who elect to ride the bus will be required to wear a face covering, unless it is determined to be a greater health risk, according to the student's medical provider. Siblings or students who live together may be assigned to sit together. Students should wear a face covering

and physically distance when possible while at the bus stop. Bus drivers will also disinfect between routes. Hand sanitizer will be available on all buses. Students will sanitize their hands upon entry onto the bus. Buses are prepared to run at full capacity; however, if at all possible parents are encouraged to drop-off/pick-up students, carpool or walk to reduce exposure on buses. Additional seating expectations will be shared with schools and parents. Bus transportation may be modified or reduced in accordance with ADH guidance.

Support Needed from Parents/Guardians

- Ensure that your student(s)' immunizations/ wellness checks are up-to-date.
- Stress the importance of the utilization of masks/face coverings, adhering to social distancing, and regularly washing their hands, both at school and away from school. Please take time to demonstrate these actions with our younger students.
- Support the effective communication among students, parents, and staff members, which is even more critical now.

Employees

All District employees shall be required to wear a face covering while working or attending a school function in any school building, facility or other area of a school campus. All face coverings must cover the nose and mouth of the employee. Employees shall wear face coverings at all times except for the following:

- Employees may remove face coverings for eating and drinking;
- Employees may remove face coverings when appropriate social distancing measures are in place;
- Employees may be exempted from this policy by the school principal or the Superintendent due to a documented medical condition of the employee; or
- Employees may remove face coverings on a case-by-case basis for specific instructional needs and other activities, as determined by a teacher, in which case the teacher will utilize appropriate social distancing measures.

Employees who refuse to wear a face covering at school or at a school function under this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, including and up to termination or nonrenewal of the employee's contract.

Visitors

Until further action of the Board, all District visitors shall be required to wear a mask or face covering while present in any school building, facility or other area of a school campus.

School Supplies

At Bald Knob Public Schools, we recognize the importance of our students being well-equipped for learning. We are very excited to announce that the district will provide school supplies for all K-12 grade students for the 2020-2021 school year except for backpacks. Supplies will not be grouped for sharing and will be assigned to individual students.

BKVA Learning Lab Classrooms

Class sizes will depend on student enrollment. K-12 student schedules are developed to limit transitions throughout the day. Classroom desks are spaced to maximize physical distancing as much as feasible. While classroom spaces do not allow for 6 feet of physical distance between students, teachers have arranged seating to create as much physical distancing as possible. Students will be assigned a specific space/seating chart.

Employees will modify instructional plans to reduce student contact, sharing of materials, or equipment and maintain appropriate social distancing to the greatest possible extent. Students will utilize their own school supplies. School supplies will not be shared by students. Outdoor learning spaces will be available where the activity lends itself to being outside.

Meal Service

Students will be charged for meals based on their meal benefit eligibility status.

Beginning August 31st, BKVA parents pick up a meal pack for up to five days (5 breakfasts and 5 lunches) on Monday of each week. Orders must be made by the Friday before each week begins. Please click the following link to order meals: [Meal Order Form Packs](#). Meal packs must be picked up on Mondays between 9:30-10:00 AM in the ***elementary cafeteria***.

Virtual student menus will be posted on the district website.

Water Bottle Refilling Stations

At this time, drinking fountains will not be utilized due to health concerns. Students are encouraged to bring a filled water bottle from home each day. Water bottle refilling stations will be open for students to refill their water bottles as needed.

HELP! K-12 Call Centers

Elementary Learning Lab

- Email: ellearninglab@baldknobschools.org
- Number: 501-232-6640

Middle & High School Learning Lab

- Email: learninglab@baldknobschools.org
- Number: 501-724-5652 ext. 115

Nurses

- Email: bk nurse@baldknobschools.org
- Number: 501-203-9615

Technology Support

- Email: tech.support@baldknobschools.org
- Number: 501-232-1226

Bald Knob Virtual Academy

- Email: digital.support@baldknobschools.org
- Number: 501-232-6097

Special Services

Support services include Special Education, Gifted & Talented, School Counseling, Response to Intervention, ESOL, and other school specific supports. All services will be provided on campus at a regularly scheduled time.

These services will follow one or more models:

- Staff wearing PPE will “push-in” by providing services to students in the homeroom.
- Staff wearing PPE will pull a student out individually or with homeroom students to provide services.
- Staff wearing PPE will pull a student out with non-homeroom students. All staff and students wear PPE and social distance as much as possible given room constraints

Social Services

Social services will continue providing direct support to students and families. Partnerships with community agencies and organizations will be utilized as additional services are needed.

Social workers will continue to process referrals from school staff and community partners and provide case management for individuals in need. School staff can make referrals to their school counselor and social worker in regard to students/family needs.

The district Families in Transition Coordinator, Ms. Marcy Dugger, will work with school counselors, social workers, and families to identify students who meet the [McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act](#) criteria. This identification serves to reduce barriers as students strive to obtain academic achievement.

Gifted & Talented Education

GT instruction and services will continue for current GT students whether they choose the traditional/blended/hybrid model or the home campus virtual learning model. Students will still be screened for gifted and talented placement regardless of the option they choose. GT instruction will be included in the virtual off-site learning model.

English Language Learners

Language support will continue to be provided to English learners (ELs) for both blended and virtual learning options. This support will help ELs' meaningfully participate in content-area learning experiences.

ELs will receive accommodations and modifications according to their proficiency level needs. These will be recorded and distributed, as always, by their LPAC.

Parents/guardians may waive any ESL services, but students who are identified as ELs must complete annual language proficiency assessments.

New students who indicate a language other than English on the Home Language Usage Survey will be screened in-person to determine if they should participate in ESL programming.

Both oral and written communication will be provided to parents/guardians in languages other than English regardless of a student's EL status.

- If interpretation (oral) or translation (written) services are necessary, please contact Ms. Marcy Dugger, Director of Federal and Special Programs, at 501-724-3273 ext. 101.

When Someone is Sick

Any individual who shows signs or symptoms of illness should stay home. Students will not be penalized for missing school and are encouraged to stay home when they are not feeling well. Students should not attend school with fever reducing medicine. Students should be fever-free when attending school.

If a student comes to school sick, the school nurse will screen the student and check their temperature. If temperature is over 99.9 degrees per district policy, the student will be sent home and will need to be fever free for 24 hours without medication before returning to school. When the child returns to school, they will check in with the school nurse.

Isolated areas have been identified in all facilities for individuals demonstrating COVID-19 symptoms until they can be picked up from school.

COVID-19 Cases

- Any individual who tests positive for COVID-19 or who shows any signs or symptoms of illness should stay home.
- Please report possible cases of COVID-19 to your school so that contact tracing can be initiated. BKPS Point of Contacts are Ms. Whitney Swindle, RN, and Ms. Andrea Mason, RN.
 - Email: bk nurse@baldknobschools.org
 - Nurse Call Center Number: 501-203-9615
- Individuals should not return to school for 10 days after symptoms first appeared AND be fever free for 72 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications.
- People who have had close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 must quarantine at home and monitor symptoms for 14 days. Close contact is defined as "any individual who has been closer than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes."
- Any individual who tests positive for COVID-19, must go into isolation until ADH releases them from isolation (typically 10-14 days). The ADH will provide a letter of

release to anyone who tests positive and is required to isolate. If you do not hear from a contact tracer from ADH after testing positive for COVID-19, contact ADH at 1-800-803-7847.

- Students or employees returning from illness related to COVID-19 will be required to check in with the school nurse and school administrator.
- If an employee or student tests positive, FPS will contact the Arkansas Department of Health and follow its guidance for quarantine requirements and the potential closure of a school.

Quarantine Situations

The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) will communicate quarantine expectations and implications for class/building/district.

[What about Contact Tracing?](#)

[How to Home Quarantine?](#)

Acronyms

FACE: Family & Community Engagement

LL: Lincoln Learning

LMS: Learning Management System

PPE: Personal Protective Equipment

RFL: Ready for Learning