

October 27, 2020

Dear BR Families,

I want to communicate about various upcoming important dates as we approach the start of four days of on campus learning. Also, our daily health screening protocol will be changing in November. Please be sure to read about that below.

Today, **Tuesday, 10/27** is the final day for K-8 Knight learners to opt into on campus learning for the remainder of the first semester.

Monday, 11/2 is a K-12 Remote Learning Planning Day. Staff will be making final preparations to welcome Blue and Silver learners. No learning activities will be provided for K-12 Blue and Silver learners. Pre-K learning activities will be provided. Knight learners will continue with Calvert or Courseware.

Tuesday, 11/3 is Election Day. No student attendance. No learning activities. Knight learners using Calvert or Courseware are not in session online.

Wednesday, 11/4 we welcome Blue and Silver K-12 learners and any K-8 Knights who have opted to return to on campus learning. Pre-K Blue learners attend on campus. As a reminder, the school day begins at 8:20 and dismisses at 2:20. Knight learners who use Calvert or Courseware will continue with their online program.

Monday, 11/9, and all following Mondays will continue to be remote until otherwise notified. Mondays allow teachers to provide additional support to students who are unable to attend school due to current medical concerns. Attendance on remote Mondays will be taken with the attendance form located on the banner of our district webpage, www.blueridge18.org. Thank you for your diligence with completing the form for each student in your household.

New information for four days of attendance:

The transportation department has been working on rerouting buses for Blue, Silver, and our returning Knights. Buses will be kept within the ISBE guidelines of 50 persons per bus. Parents/guardians, if you do not receive a call from transportation by Wednesday, 10/28, regarding updated route times, please contact the bus barn at (309) 928-2150. Shuttle buses will depart at 7:55 a.m.

A few reasons have led us to change our daily health protocols. First, taking accurate temperatures has become more difficult as the weather has been colder. Second, as we are doubling our daily attendance, the time for temperature taking could cause congestion at each building entrance. Moving forward, beginning on Wednesday, 11/4, we will ask that families complete the health protocol at home. You will be provided with a page of self-certification tags. Each day, we ask that you check for fever and all other COVID symptoms, and if your student is symptom free, please fill in your student's name, the date, and your signature on the tag. Tags should be readily visible in order to board a bus or to enter a school building. For younger students, it is suggested that they be clipped to a lanyard or backpack. The tag will be taken by school personnel at the entrance to the building. Any student without a tag will be temperature and symptom checked using our current protocol. Please note: we reserve the right to temperature and symptom check any student upon entrance to the bus or the school building.

It is our hope that we will be able to maintain four days of on campus instruction through the remainder of the semester. Your continued help with following CDC guidelines will be helpful as we strive to reach our goal. If a return to hybrid learning or remote learning becomes necessary, we will communicate with you as soon as possible. To stay informed, please consider getting the Blue Ridge #18, IL app on your smart device and allowing notifications from the district and your respective school(s).

As a reminder, Christie Clinic continues to offer free antigen testing for students and staff who present with symptoms. Paperwork must be picked up from any school building office prior to arriving at Christie Clinic. This offer for free antigen testing is not appropriate for any staff or students who are considered close contacts. If you are aware of any individuals or organizations that would be willing to make a monetary donation to assist the cause, please contact the unit office at (309) 928-9141.

Upcoming dates and decisions:

For anyone considering fully remote instruction using the Edmentum curriculum for the second semester, Paige Trimble will be hosting two virtual meetings on 11/9 and 11/11 at 6 p.m. The sessions are identical, so you can choose the date that works best for you. A Zoom link will be posted on the webpage, Facebook and on the Blue Ridge app. You can also find them below. Feedback from current Knight parents will be shared, along with a brief demonstration of Calvert Learning (K-5) and Courseware (6-12). With our increased knowledge about the Edmentum learning platforms, we will require a full semester commitment from families who choose the fully remote option. The deadline for opting to be a Knight on the Edmentum curriculum for second semester is November 20. More information will be forthcoming.

Zoom link for 11/9 at 6:00

p.m. <https://zoom.us/j/92948207101?pwd=aFlhcEErNFFzbmpXMzdXc1RGdlRGUT09>

Meeting ID: 929 4820 7101

Passcode: yAa5y6

Zoom link for 11/11 at 6:00 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/99072256916?pwd=VTZvWtB3Ym5tbEFjOEIvaXhMd1gxQT09>

Meeting ID: 990 7225 6916

Passcode: 0JK8Fn

If you have any questions about our return to four days of instruction, or the upcoming Edmentum decision for second semester, please reach out to your building principal.

A page of self-certification tags is included for you on the next page. Additional pages will be sent home with your student this week and each following week. You may also print the page at home.

