

# Beech Grove City Schools



## Back to School Roadmap For the 2020-2021 School Year

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## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the 2020-21 School Year for Parents**

Beech Grove City Schools (BGCS) communicated on June 24, 2020 that we would re-open in person and on our scheduled opening date of Thursday, July 30. Additional information has been shared via our Hornet Blast and our district Facebook page, along with more detailed information detailing our At Home and At School options on July 7, 2020. This FAQ document will be updated regularly on our BGCS website to continue to provide more in-depth information to our BGCS families. ***Please note: guidelines, policies, and procedures are subject to change based on guidance from the Indiana State Department of Health and the Marion County Health Department.***

### **Instructional Questions**

**Will there be an online/at home option available?** Yes. At Home Learning will be offered for those students unable or unwilling to participate in returning to school. Students At Home and At School will be on the SAME scope and sequence of learning.

**Will the online/At home experience be similar to what we did from March to May 2020 for extended eLearning?** The At Home Experience will be much more robust and participatory than the extended eLearning which took place in the spring.

**What will the K-6 online At Home Experience be?** Grades K-6 will have a set schedule to follow each day and teachers will be available for interaction and feedback. If a student is unable to access live lessons during the school day, lessons will be recorded for viewing later in the day.

**What about middle school students in grades 7-8?** Students will work on coursework through Canvas for Math, Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, and a combination of Art, Physical Education, and Health. Teachers will be available during their Prep Period to interact with students.

**What about the experience for our high school students?** Students will work on coursework through Canvas for all courses in which they are enrolled. Students will complete some work asynchronously (on their own time) as well as be expected to complete some work synchronously (at a specific time). All work (assignments, assessments) may be completed from home. As expectations will vary from course to course, students should be available during regular school hours to complete work and get support from teachers. High School students who choose “At School” learning will follow a hybrid schedule: approximately half of the student population will attend at school on Monday and Tuesday, with e-Learning at home on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. The other half will attend on Thursday and Friday, with e-Learning at home on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. At Home students will continue with e-Learning Monday-Friday.

**If a student commits to At Home or At School Learning to start the year, will they be allowed to move later to the alternate option?** Yes. A commitment of nine weeks is expected if students begin with the At Home option and then want to switch to the At School option. Switching from At School to At Home will be an easier transition and can be accommodated on a quicker timeline.

**Will students share supplies this year?** We will eliminate the sharing of supplies as much as possible and ask that each student bring their own supplies and keep them in their own personal backpack. If any supplies are shared (for example: art classes), supplies will be sanitized before each class and students will be required to wash or sanitize their hands before and after using shared supplies.

**How will classrooms be set up differently to reduce possible spread of the COVID-19 virus?** With the new state guidelines of 3-6 feet to social distance, social distancing should be possible in every classroom. Individual desks will be placed in rows facing the front of the room. This arrangement may allow students to remove their masks at their desks, at the direction of their teacher.

**What about classrooms with tables instead of desks, or times when the teacher works with small groups?** We will social distance to the maximum extent possible but there will be times where we will need to put masks on when working closely, in small groups. Teachers and students will have Face Shields to be able to better communicate with each other.

**What about passing periods?** Students will be required to wear masks during passing periods and any other time when social distancing cannot occur.

**What about band, choir, athletics?** We will spread students out to the maximum extent possible, attempt to have them facing in one direction and use other spaces in the school buildings to spread out when possible. Athletics information will be shared separately by individual sport.

**Will our substitute teachers follow the same guidelines?** Yes, substitute teachers and college students who visit our buildings must follow our guidelines.

**Will paper packets be offered to students who decide to do At Home Learning?**

No. At Home students will participate online and will not be provided with paper packets.

**What if we don't have Internet access at home?**

Based on your income level, wireless options might be available through a local grant.

**Will the school calendar remain the same?** At this time, the school calendar remains the same.

**What about students who receive special education services?** Students who participate in At Home Learning and receive special education services will continue receiving their services virtually. A special education teacher will be assigned to collaborate with general education teachers to ensure that all accommodations and services are delivered. This may be a different special education teacher than who typically supports your child. A conference will be held to determine all services with input from both school personnel and parents.

Students receiving 504 accommodations will continue to have their accommodations if they choose At Home Learning. Some 504 plans may need to be adjusted for At Home Learning.

### **Health and Safety Questions**

**Are students and staff required to wear masks?** All staff and all students in grades 3-12 will be required to wear a facemask. We will teach our K-2 students to wear a mask during transition from room to room and when social distancing is not possible. All staff and all students (K-12) will be required to wear a facemask on the bus and in school when social distancing is not possible. Teachers will make the determination when a student may safely remove their facemask in the classroom.

We don't just want to reopen our schools; we want to keep them open! In addition, we want to protect our staff members who are more at risk of getting COVID-19 and who would have a much more difficult recovery than younger people would. As Dr. Box, Medical Director of the Indiana State Department of Health says, **"I wear a mask to protect you and you wear a mask to protect me."**

**What if my child has sensory issues, health issues, or is claustrophobic?** We will work with our families and staff members to find ways to comply with this

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important protective measure, while being sensitive to individual issues. If a parent or student has health issues that prohibit wearing a facemask, they will be exempt from the facemask requirement after providing certification of a documented medical concern.

**Is there a certain type of mask required?** Any cloth face covering that meets health guidelines is acceptable, and is within the district's dress code.

**What can we do to keep schools open and keep students and staff safe?** The number one way to keep school open is to keep students home if they are sick. Please screen your child daily (a recommended daily checklist is attached, and will be included on our website) and do not send them to school if they are ill. Wearing a mask at the appropriate times is also an important way to stop the spread and keep everyone safe.

**What are typical COVID-19 related symptoms?**

- A fever of 100.4 or greater
- Congestion or runny nose
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or Vomiting
- Chills
- Muscle pain and fatigue
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

**Emphasize hand washing at home and at school.** Students will wash hands any time they are transitioning, but especially before and after lunch/recess. Additional hand sanitizing stations are being added in key locations throughout all of our schools.

**If a student arrives at school and is ill, what will happen?** The student will be immediately referred to the school nurse to determine if sending the student home is necessary/recommended. The student will be placed in a separate transition area until a decision is made for the parent to pick up their student.

**When can an individual who tested positive for COVID-19 return to school?** Persons who have **not had symptoms** but test positive for COVID-19 may return when they have gone 10 calendar days past their test without symptoms and have been released by a healthcare provider. A student may also return to school if they are approved to do so in writing by the student's health care provider.

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Persons who experienced **symptoms** and have been tested for COVID-19 may return to school if the following conditions are met:

- The individual no longer has a fever (without the use of medicine that reduces fever); and
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); and
- At least 10 calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared; or
- The individual has received two negative tests at least 24 hours apart.

**How will clinics be handled?** At the recommendation of our health care professionals, we will separate space in our clinics. There will be a separate space (or in some cases a separate room) for routine medicine distribution, sprains, etc. The school nurse will see anyone displaying respiratory symptoms or fever in a separate area.

**What additional cleaning protocols will be in place?** High touch surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected regularly throughout the day. More intense cleaning will occur each evening in our classrooms and restrooms. All classrooms will be equipped with hand sanitizer and buildings will have additional hand sanitizer stations throughout the building.

**What about the use of school cafeterias?** Breakfast will be served in the classrooms everywhere except the high school. There will be two kiosks available for grab and go, as well as one line in the cafeteria. Lunch at all schools will be served on the line. The only prepackaged foods will be the normal parfaits, pre-made salads, and pre-made sandwiches as we've done in the past. The rest of the food will be served by Chartwells Food Service staff on the line (no self-service) and handed to each student. Items that are a la carte will be served by our café cashiers. All condiments will either be a packet or will be applied by the staff on the line.

**How about recess?** Individual classes will be assigned a play area so that we can keep classes together. Playground equipment will be cleaned daily.

**Will field trips be allowed?** Off-campus field trips are eliminated, while virtual field trips will be encouraged.

**What about attendance awards?** We will eliminate the use of attendance awards and perfect attendance incentives for students.

**Will volunteers/visitors/guests be allowed at school?** We will not be scheduling volunteers during the day in our schools. We will also not allow parents or other visitors to enter the front office area, nor will we allow deliveries or vendors during the student instructional day. If a student is to be picked up for an appointment or

because she/he is ill, the parent must wait in the fishbowl or vestibule area and staff will send their child out to meet them.

**What about common water fountains?** There will be no drinking from water fountains allowed. Bringing water bottles from home is encouraged and may be refilled from the classroom sink or water bottle refill component on our water fountains.

**Will my child or staff be temperature screened?** Not routinely, but our teachers have access to a thermometer and many have elected to routinely temperature screen their students. We will provide a parent checklist for you to perform every morning before your child leaves for school. One of the items on the checklist will be to check your child's temperature.

### **Transportation Questions**

**Will students be allowed multiple drop-offs and pick-ups for the bus?** On the advice of the Department of Education and Health Department officials, we will need to limit families to one pick up location in the morning and one drop off location in the afternoon each day.

**Will bus passes be allowed?** No. Students will only be permitted to ride their assigned bus home and will not be permitted to ride home on a different bus using a bus pass.

**What about social distance on the bus?** It is virtually impossible to social distance on a school bus; however, all students, regardless of age, **will be required to wear a mask on the bus**. All drivers and aides will also wear a mask.

**What other precautions will be taken on the bus?** Seating charts will be used on the bus. Should there be a positive case, we need to be able to identify who was seated near the affected students. Siblings will sit together on the bus. Buses will be thoroughly cleaned between routes and at the end of each day. All buses will be fogged with disinfectant after morning AND afternoon routes. All buses will additionally have higher touch areas wiped frequently. The product used for disinfecting our buses is a non-toxic, organic, biodegradable and broad-spectrum disinfectant liquid that is safe on all hard surfaces and harmless to humans and a warm-blooded animal.

### **Questions About Positive Cases**

**What happens if there is a positive case in my child's school?** If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 in your child's school, BGCS will

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immediately notify our district nurse/health coordinator who will notify the Marion County Health Department (MCHD). In some cases, the MCHD will notify BGCS first. All families in that school will be notified of a positive case. If your child was in close proximity to the individual who tested positive, the Marion County Health Department or Beech Grove City Schools will notify you and recommend that you check your child's temperature daily and watch for symptoms over the next two to five days. The individual who tests positive will be quarantined for 14 days before returning to school.

The school will close off and deep clean affected areas in the school where a positive case is discovered.

**What happens if there is a positive case in my child's classroom?** If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 in your child's classroom, BGCS will immediately notify our district nurse/health coordinator who will notify the Marion County Health Department (MCHD). In some cases, the MCHD will notify BGCS first. All families from that classroom will be notified of a positive case. If your child was in close proximity to the individual who tested positive, the Marion County Health Department or Beech Grove City Schools will contact you if they believe you should quarantine your child for 14 days and watch for symptoms. The school will contact you about how learning will continue during the 14-day quarantine. The individual who tests positive will be quarantined for 14 days before returning to school.

The school will close off this particular classroom and deep clean affected areas.

**What if a family member of a student/staff has COVID-19?** We know that a family member is 15 times more likely to get COVID-19 if another family member has it. If an individual in one's home has COVID-19 or is isolated because of COVID-19, those in the household should also stay home for a minimum of two weeks. This could be longer if the student becomes symptomatic. The Marion County Health Department will provide guidance. Please notify your school of a positive Covid-19 case in your home.

### **Other Questions**

**When can I drop my child off in the morning?** The listing of when students may be dropped off at each school is listed on the "At a Glance" school calendar, posted on our website and regularly posted in the Hornet Blast and on our district Facebook page. This schedule may differ from previous school years, as we need to limit gatherings of students in entryways.

**My child is transitioning to a new school; how can we help him/her adjust?** Our schools offered virtual back to school nights in late July. Please read your Hornet Blast and our district Facebook page carefully for the latest updates.

**Whom should I contact if I have general questions or comments about COVID-19?** Our district nurse/health coordinator has been designated to be this contact for BGCS. Mrs. Brandee Beikman can be contacted at [bbeikman@bgcs.k12.in.us](mailto:bbeikman@bgcs.k12.in.us).

**When will athletics be allowed to start?** Athletic practices began July 6th, 2020. Our athletic directors will continue to send out separate guidance and information.

**Can my child participate in athletics/extra-curricular activities while doing At Home Learning?** At this time, in order to participate in athletics and extracurricular activities, students must choose At School Learning and be physically present in their school building.

**If we choose At Home Learning for the first nine weeks and then switch to At School Learning, will my student be able to then participate in extracurricular activities?** A student could rejoin those types of courses when they return to At School Learning if they were enrolled in the courses for At Home Learning. If you have specific questions regarding your child, please contact your child's principal.

**Where can I get more information about COVID-19 and schools?** The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) has published IN-CLASS (Indiana's Considerations for Learning and Safe Schools). It is constantly being updated and can be accessed at: <https://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/news/june-5-class-document.pdf>

**Will there be any special policies in place if you travel outside the state for a vacation?** At this time, we do not intend to monitor travel; however, this could change if hotspots continue to pop up across the country, a travel ban is issued, or we are advised to do so by the Marion County Health Department.

**What if a high school student is signed up for Central Nine? Will they still be able to do this if they select At Home Learning?** If a student has selected to participate in Central Nine (C-9) courses, the Central Nine staff states that they must attend at school. However, a BGHS student may complete the remainder of their required courses through the BGCS At Home Learning option.

**Will my child be able to participate in the School Lunch Program if we choose at home learning?** A proposal has been submitted to the Department of Education for approval. We will notify our parents when the proposal is approved. Please note: unlike the emergency food distribution program we conducted while school was closed from March-July 9, school meals will now only be available to students and BGCS will have to charge for the meals based on the benefit level granted to the student: free, reduced, or paid lunches. There will be no meals delivered, nor will there be any other mobile delivery routes. Grab and Go meals would need to be picked up at a designated location.

**Will my child be required to come to school to take tests/assessments if we choose at home learning?** We will have provisions in place for At Home Learning students to take assessments at home. The assessments will not need to be proctored at school. At this time, students would need to come into their school building to take **assessments from the state of Indiana.**

**Will Juniors and Seniors still be allowed to leave for lunch?** We are considering a number of options for lunch based on the number of students opting into At Home and At School Learning. We will let you know when a decision is made.

**When will chrome books and iPads be distributed to students for the 2020-2021 school year, and how will distribution be handled?** Chromebook and iPad distribution took place in late July.

**If you still have questions:**

Please contact Dr. Kaiser with any general questions, and our district nurse, Mrs. Brandee Beikman, for special medical questions.