

July 14, 2020

Dear BASD Families,

Last night, the School Board met to discuss the three scenarios (in-person, hybrid, and virtual) developed by the leadership team. With the escalating number of cases in Wisconsin and a commitment to keeping students and staff as safe as possible, the board directed the district to move ahead with the hybrid plan to maximize physical distance in the schools.

What is the Hybrid Plan?

- **Elementary Level (Grades 4K-6) - all in person - 5 days per week**
- **Secondary Level (Grades 7-12) - 2 days in person /3 days virtual per week**
- Some students will be relocated to create space in certain schools.
- Classrooms will mostly be at half capacity. For example, a normal classroom of 24 students will be split into two sections with 12 students.

Advantages of the Hybrid Plan

- A return to in-person learning
- Meets social distance guidelines
- In-person student experience allows for more time to work on essential skills
- Students will still have access to specials and electives (such as art, music, and gym)
- Starting in the hybrid model avoids having to shift to this greater distance model mid-year.

This is the most challenging of the three models to implement. The leadership team met today to further resolve the logistics. We need time to vet the plans with others (such as Thomas Bus Service, Aramark Food Service, etc.) before sharing more finite details. But **details will come soon**, from the district, the building principals, and teachers.

SAFETY MEASURES

On everyone's mind is how we will keep students and staff safe with in-person learning. This is our top priority. We have added cleaning measures, we are working closely with the Central Racine County Health Department, we have added time into the daily schedule for hand washing, and face coverings will be required.

FACE COVERINGS

The board also decided that masks / face coverings will be required for staff and students in order to provide the safest possible environment for teaching and learning. The use of masks has been shown to reduce the spread of the COVID-19. The guidance we've received says:

"Face coverings should be worn by staff and students (particularly older students) as

feasible, and are most essential in times when physical distancing is difficult.” (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

“Require physical distancing to the extent possible AND face covering for students, staff; cohort students to the extent possible.” (Central Racine County Health Department recommends for schools)

We understand that we will need to work with families with students with special needs or medical conditions (for example, students in speech therapy or with documented anxiety). Further, we recognize that there are moments in the day that a mask may not be necessary, such as outside activities taking place with social distancing. There may also be times when it is just not feasible such as when eating lunch.

JEDI VIRTUAL LEARNING

BASD partners with JEDI Virtual School to offer an online learning alternative for families. An informational meeting will take place on Thursday, July 23 at 5:00 p.m. Use [this form \(link\)](#) to register for the meeting. The meeting details will be sent by email.

DIFFERENT SCENARIOS

We anticipate that throughout the year, for a variety of reasons, we may have to temporarily shift to virtual learning. We are committed to better-preparing students and families for virtual learning.

QUESTIONS?

This is a new reality for all of us and there will be many questions. Please send your questions to news@basd.k12.wi.us. We will share a link to the Questions/Answers document this week.

As we said in the July 2 communication with families, the 2020-2021 school year will be disruptive for everyone. To return to school in person, school will be different. Your patience and flexibility in the weeks and months ahead will be paramount. Our commitment is to provide a comprehensive education to Burlington students while showing compassion for the diverse needs of our students.

More details will be forthcoming. Please watch your email for further updates.

Yours in Education,

District Leadership Team