

July 27, 2020

Dear BASD Families,

With [online registration](#) underway, the Burlington Area School District is excited to begin another school year and we are preparing for a year unlike any other. Since announcing that the BASD intends to return to school the week of August 17 using a **Hybrid Plan**, BASD staff have been working tirelessly on the logistics. We've read your questions, comments, and are seeking to incorporate your feedback. To address your questions and concerns we've created a ["Back-to-School" webpage](#) that will be updated regularly.

**Families have two learning options through BASD:**

1. In-person learning at a BASD school where masks will be required.
  - Grades 4K-6 will be in-person five days a week, and
  - Grades 7-12 in-person at Burlington High School two days a week plus three days virtual.
2. Virtual Learning through BASD's partner [JEDI Virtual School](#) which allows a student to learn from home and no mask is needed.

Also since announcing BASD's back-to-school plan, the number of COVID cases in Wisconsin has continued to rise. Families need to understand that this is a fluid situation. Throughout the year, we will likely still need to utilize virtual learning days. We hope that virtual learning won't last as long as the duration we experienced during the spring. Teachers will receive training before school begins to improve the virtual learning experience.

We also maintain hope that at some point during the year we can return to in-person learning five days a week for all students - grades 4K-12. How the virus presents itself in our state and county is out of our control and we will continue to make adjustments to support the learning of our students with increased safety measures.

**Where will my student attend school?**

To maintain as much distance as possible within the space we have, students will be spread out across district buildings. We feel that having our youngest learners attend five days a week will support their learning and will help families that need childcare. To make more space for younger students to attend five days, grades 7-8 shift to the high school with two in-person + three virtual days.

| School                  | Students  | Principal   | Notes  |
|-------------------------|---|---|--|
| Cooper Elementary       | 4K-4 traditional<br>4K-5K Montessori<br>Early Childhood | Mrs. Syens  | In-person 5 days   |
| Lyons Center Elementary | 4K-4 traditional<br>(no change)                         | Mr. Graham  | In-person 5 days   |
| Waller Elementary       | 4K-2 traditional<br>Self-contained<br>Special Education | Mrs. Libbey   | In-person 5 days   |
| Winkler Elementary      | 4K-4 traditional<br>(no change)<br>Early Childhood      | Mr. Graham  | In-person 5 days   |
| Dyer Intermediate       | 1-6 Montessori<br>All of Grade 6                        | Mr. Schimmel  | In-person 5 days   |
| Karcher Middle School   | Waller's Grades 3-4<br>All of Grade 5<br>Project Win    | Mrs. Libbey<br>Mr. Schimmel<br>Kathy Merlo<br>(Dr. Oelslager or Ms. Phillips on site) | In-person 5 days   |
| Burlington High School  | Grades 7-8<br>Grades 9-12                               | Dr. Oelslager<br>Mr. Burling  | Group A*:<br>Mon/Thurs<br>Group B*: Tues/Fri<br>Wednesday: All virtual |

(\* Students in the same family will be assigned to the same group. Class schedules will be released on August 7.)

**NOTES:**

- **Families will receive communication from their building principal with the specifics for each school.**
- A separate letter is being sent to families with students utilizing special education services.
- While BASD plans to provide each student with a face-covering, students can also wear the face-covering that they are used to and will be comfortable wearing.
- How the district responds if people test positive for COVID will be directed by the local health departments. See this link posted by the Department of Public Instruction and the Wisconsin Department of Health:  
[https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sspw/pdf/Returning\\_to\\_School\\_After\\_COVID-19.pdf](https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sspw/pdf/Returning_to_School_After_COVID-19.pdf)

NEXT STEPS FOR FAMILIES:

1. Please take the time to explore the [Back-to-School website](#).
2. Register for [school online](#).
3. Prepare your student/s for back-to-school by practicing good hygiene (handwashing), practicing mask-wearing at home, and practicing social distance.

One final comment: This is new to all of us, and all of us will have to adjust to change. While this is a huge challenge, this is also a huge opportunity. BASD has already seen positives in how it can better deliver education. We have benefited from the creativity of our dedicated staff as we solve one logistic at a time. As always, we are committed to showing compassion for the needs of people who make up our learning community while also offering a comprehensive experience during this unique time.

Thank you,

District Leadership