

BETHEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

RETURN TO
LEARN



2020-2021



NOTE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Bethel Schools will return to in person classes on Thursday, August 20th. This is in response to our parent survey that indicated that over 90% of our students plan to return to a face-to-face setting. Our goal and intent is to provide the best possible education to ALL Bethel students. Since our shutdown in March, we have maintained contact with local and state health officials concerning our approach to the 2020-2021 school year. In evaluating our current local situation, we feel we can implement recommended safety precautions and begin our school year.

Bethel Public Schools believe that a face-to-face environment is the most effective way to deliver quality instruction. We also realize that this is an unprecedented time where health and safety concerns are at the forefront of everything we do. This document will outline the necessary precautions that will be in place when we return. It will also provide you a method of contacting site administrators with specific concerns regarding your child's return to school and our virtual option for students. The online option will not include access to extracurricular and certain elective options due to the nature of the course and in the best interest of health concerns.

-Tod Harrison

PUBLIC HEALTH:

The health, safety and well being of students, staff and families are a primary priority. Caution is essential and following recommended guidelines is imperative. Dealing with unanticipated COVID-19 related situations will be planned for and ongoing sanitation of buildings and classrooms will be accomplished.

Visitors will be required to wear a mask upon entry to any site. Visitors will only be allowed to enter the office areas of each site. No access will be allowed beyond that point at any time.

Parents are highly encouraged to communicate via phone or email with the exception of emergencies.

MASKS & FACE COVERINGS:

Bethel Schools will follow the recommended guidelines set forth in the July 23rd State Board of Education meeting. A draft of that document can be found at <https://sde.ok.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Oklahoma%20Schools%20Safety%20Protocols%20Draft.pdf?fbclid=IwAR24fndUU44uYf3yNL5Vh1IfEHcFczNTKW5SIZTAzOOwh4Fb9urAAIzLb1Y>.

It is based on the Oklahoma state COVID-19 Alert System that ranks each county according to current COVID risk factors and updates weekly. There is a link to it in the mask recommendations.

As of today, we have remained constant in the yellow/low risk category and will follow the recommendations by staff and students wearing masks.

Students should be prepared to bring two masks to school.

GROUP GATHERINGS & TRAVEL:

All trips will be limited to sanctioned school events. Extracurricular and athletic events are set to take place per the ruling from the OSSAA. Current mask wearing and social distancing recommendations will be practiced by those in attendance.

SYMPTOM SCREENING:

As a reminder of potential symptoms, parents will be given an at-home checklist to review before sending their child/children to school. If a student or staff member exhibits symptoms at home we will ask that they stay home and make a decision based on the types of symptoms whether or not it is worthy of a doctor's appointment. Students' temperatures will be taken when they arrive in class each morning. Any student with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or more will be sent to the nurse for verification of the fever. If the nurse verifies a temperature or symptoms, the student's parents will be contacted to pick them up.

QUARANTINES:

Disruptions could occur due to positive cases and/or exposure to a positive case. Currently the CDC recommended quarantine for exposure is 14 days. A verified positive is 10 days and no fever or symptoms for 72 hours prior to return. There are some possible exceptions to these that can be given by a health professional given verified dates of exposure and or onset. We will abide by current CDC guidelines and attending physician's recommendations.

POSITIVE CASES & POSSIBLE EXPOSURES:

Transparency is paramount in the event of a known positive or direct exposure. All known positives and/or exposures will result in the notification of those involved according to HIPAA guidelines.

HYGIENE MEASURES:

Frequent use of hand sanitizer and hand washing will be encouraged. Accommodations will be provided for staff members that are required to work in close proximity with students who are in a higher health risk category or where proximity is required for the learning process.

CLEANING OF FACILITIES:

Custodial cleaning practices will be focused on cleaning for health with an emphasis on disinfecting for bacteria or viruses. Daily electrostatic fogging of the sites will occur to mitigate the spreading of viruses. Classrooms will be supplied with cleaning supplies to be used as necessary during the school day.

TRANSPORTATION:

Bus drivers will wear face coverings. Siblings will be asked to sit together when possible. Riders will wear face coverings due to the potential impossibility of adequate social distancing. We do encourage anyone that has the ability to transport their own students to please do so.

FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES:

Efforts will be made to maintain social distancing during feeding times within the limits of our facilities. Face coverings will not be required while eating.

ACADEMICS:

Option 1: Face-to-face instruction is expected to serve more than 90% of our students. This will be our traditional school day with all courses/classes taken at school sites.

Option 2: Virtual school will be offered. Those interested in this option will need to contact the site principal by July 31st to complete the application process and receive details.

Email contact information for site principals:

- Bethel High School (9-12)
 - Jeremy Stewart: stewartj@bethel.k12.ok.us
- Bethel Middle School (6-8)
 - Tina Moon: moont@bethel.k12.ok.us
- Upper Elementary (3-5)
 - Tammy Cook: cookt@bethel.k12.ok.us
- Lower Elementary (PK-2)
 - Jenny Affentranger: affentrangerj@bethel.k12.ok.us

SPECIAL EDUCATION:

The BPS Special Services department is committed to providing educational opportunities for students with disabilities in compliance with state and federal educational law.

ABSENCES:

Students who miss school for COVID-19 reasons will be able to maintain their school responsibilities from home and be considered present at school. These days will not count against students for eligibility status in the upper grades. In the event of a COVID-19 related absence, the parent will notify their child's site office. All necessary quarantines and/or absence of symptom requirements will be met prior to their return to school.

SITE PROCEDURES:

All sites will fall under this Return to School plan. Adjustments to pickup and drop off procedures will be adjusted to comply. This information will be posted on the website and social media.

INTERRUPTIONS, DELAYS, & UNKNOWNNS:

All decisions regarding the health and safety of our students, staff and families will be made in consultation with local health professionals along with consideration to possible changes/recommendations from the Oklahoma State Health Department and the Oklahoma State Department of Education. We look forward to working with our students and parents to make this year a great educational experience for all.

VIRTUAL DAYS:

If contingency plans need to be made, virtual days will be utilized. In the event of a shutdown/temporary closure, school will carry on with the use of new virtual days that will allow online instruction to be delivered.

NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT DATES:

The offices will be accepting new enrollment paperwork on August 6-7. Please be sure to contact the site offices to make sure you have all of the required documents and to make an appointment. Office staff will be back on duty August 3rd.

MEET THE TEACHER/BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT:

These dates and procedures are being fine tuned right now in an effort to successfully accomplish the best social distancing and still allow for this important event to occur in the safest manner possible. Information will be posted on our websites and social media regarding the process.