

January 8, 2021

Greetings BHM Families,

Welcome back from Winter Break! We remain optimistic that it will be a Happy New Year for schools as we work to safely bring our students and staff back into our buildings over the next couple of months. We continue to follow the guidance set forth by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) in the [Safe Learning Plan for the 2020-21 School Year](#).

As we start this new year, we just want to remind you of a few things. As outlined in Governor Walz's orders before the break, he stressed how elementary schools could begin bringing students back to In-Person Learning as early as January 18 using a "rolling start" format—bringing in three grade levels at a time beginning with K-2. The following calendar outlines our district's plan:

2021 Return to School Calendar

- January 4-15
 - Elementary and PreK in Hybrid
 - Secondary grades 6-12 in Distance Learning
- January 18
 - No School—Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 19-28
 - Elementary K-2 and PreK return to In-Person Learning (continue early dismissal)
 - Elementary 3-5 continues in Hybrid (continue early dismissal)
 - Secondary grades 6-12 continue in Distance Learning
- January 29
 - No School/End of Term K-12
- February 1
 - Elementary K-5 and PreK are In-Person (return to normal dismissal time)
 - ***Goal:** Grades 6-12 return to Hybrid (M/W, T/TH, Friday On-Line)
- February 16
 - ***Goal:** Begin roll-in of secondary students 6-12 to In-Person Learning
 - Transition day(s) may be needed for furniture movement and planning
- March 1
 - ***Goal:** K-12 In-Person

* **Goals** are pending our consultation with our COVID-19 Regional Team and approval from MDE and MDH.

Transportation

Once students in K-2 return to In-Person Learning January 19-28, older siblings in grades 3-5, who attend KidKare, will be able to ride the bus to and from school with their younger sibling.

Updated Face Mask/Shield Protocol

While the recent update to the Safe Learning Plan states that it is “strongly recommended that districts require staff to wear face masks and face shields together, whenever possible during the school day,” BHM Schools will not make the wearing of a face shield a requirement. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) have relaxed the guidelines on this guidance. Anyone who is in direct contact with students will have a face shield available for use, but will not be required to wear the mask and shield together at this time. Mask guidelines for students and staff are still in effect.

Revised Quarantine Guidelines

When in the Hybrid Learning Model, the quarantine period for a direct exposure while in school, on the bus or in childcare or outside of your family household is only 10 days if students can maintain 6 feet of physical distance when in school. However, individuals will still be required to quarantine for 14 days if the direct contact is within your family/household.

Please reference the [BHM Decision Tree](#) if you need any guidance on this process. *(This document is modified from the MDH Decision Tree.)*

Sports/Activities

The middle school and high school activities departments along with Community Education will continue to communicate with families regarding the new requirements and any updates.

Voluntary COVID-19 Testing has Started

Testing is just one more mitigation strategy we are using to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in addition to masks, face shields, social distancing, good hand hygiene, student cohorts (groups) and more. As of January 7, 2021, BHM Schools began offering saliva testing to all BHM staff who have direct contact with students. This test is free and optional for staff.

Remember, testing is available to ALL Minnesotans at any time. There are over 20 no-barrier community testing sites run by the state of Minnesota. Testing is open to everyone with – or without insurance. And, [you can make an appointment or walk-in/same day](#).

Coming Up...

You can expect to hear more from me next week with reminders of our upcoming schedule changes. I know this is a lot for our busy families to keep track of, and I will do my best to keep you informed. We are committed to the safety of all of our students and staff and with your continued support, we will get through this together.

Be healthy and safe BHM!



Scott Thielman, Superintendent
BHM Schools

Document Translation Assistance

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