



July 28, 2021

Hello Parents/Guardians:

As July turns to August, “back to school” thoughts start coming to mind. I am writing to clarify a few questions I have received regarding the 2021-22 school year and to update everyone on a number of things as we make preparations for the coming school year.

### **COVID-19: Vaccines, Masks and Learning Models**

We continue to prioritize safety as we emerge from the pandemic. The Center for Disease Control has issued new guidelines for returning to school in 2021-22, which you might have seen and which might have been confusing for some. Please keep in mind these are guidelines – not mandates – and we continue to work with our state departments of health and education as well as local health leaders to refine plans for the 2021-22 School Year.

As of today, July 28, we know that:

- Masks are **NOT** required in school buildings. The BHM School Board rescinded the face covering policy at the June 28<sup>th</sup> meeting and the policy is not in effect for the 2021-22 school year.
- At this time, masks **ARE** required on buses/public transportation in ALL public schools throughout the nation, including passengers to and from school and to and from extracurricular activities. This is per President Biden’s Executive Order, which regulates all forms of public transportation. It is not an option for any school district to disregard the requirement. Failure to follow the mandate could result in loss of licensure and funding.
- Students who choose to wear masks in school will be welcomed by all.
- BHM Schools will **NOT** require COVID-19 vaccinations for the 2021-22 school year.
- Those who have not been vaccinated will not be segregated from any school populations. They will be welcomed by all.
- Classes will be in-person, five days a week at all levels.
- We will again rely on our families as the first line of defense to keep students home when they are sick or showing signs of illness.

### Online Learning Option

- An online learning option is now available through BHM Schools. This is not to be confused with the Distance Learning model provided last year. You can find more information about the program, which is provided in a K-12 format, at [E-Learning Enterprise](#)

## KidKare

- KidKare Child Care programs are fully open. If you are interested, please contact Tiffany Lund at [tlund@bhmschools.org](mailto:tlund@bhmschools.org). You can find more information [here](#).

## Nutrition Services

- Free breakfast and lunch meals will again be provided for all students for the 2021-22 school year.

## Technology

- New this year is a \$50 credit you may qualify for on your monthly internet provider service plan. Watch for information about applying for this credit.

## Job Opportunities

- We are in constant need of substitute teachers, custodians, nutrition services staff and ESPs. If you are interested, check us out online at [substitute opportunities](#).

We are excited to welcome students to a new school year this September and look forward to providing them opportunities to **dream, believe and achieve**. Hope you enjoy these final weeks of summer!

Sincerely,



Scott Thielman, Superintendent

BHM Schools