

Bristol Local School District

1845 Greenville Rd., N.W.
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Christopher J. Dray, Superintendent
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Dear Families,

I would like to start off by thanking you for your patience and cooperation as we navigated through remote learning during the spring months. As we look forward to reopening school in August, I want to take this opportunity to give you a feel for what school will look like. The safety of our students, families, and staff is always our first priority. Therefore, our district will adhere to the following guidelines as a minimum standard.

Physical Health

- Families and staff members will self-screen prior to the school day for symptoms of COVID-19 including fever (100.0 or above), chills, repeated shaking with chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, sore throat, and/or new loss of taste or smell. These symptoms warrant consideration for exclusion from school, and students and staff should stay home if they exhibit any of these symptoms if not otherwise explained.
- Students will have their temperatures checked upon entering the building. The district has purchased thermal screening systems that will enable us to screen students quickly and send them on to class or for further evaluation by the school nurse. We believe this is just an extra layer of protection as we start the school day.

Environmental Health

- Staff and students should have a facial covering with them at all times. All staff members are required to wear them. Facial coverings will be a requirement to ride the bus and wear throughout the school day for students as well. For this reason, the district is purchasing reusable face shields for every student and staff member to wear as an alternative to masks. We feel these are much more comfortable, more breathable, and easier to keep on for extended periods. However, staff members and families can choose whichever type of facial covering they prefer. Face shields will be kept here at school in the elementary so students can exchange their mask for one upon entering their classroom each day. Students will be given periodic breaks from masks as well throughout the school day.
- We encourage families to transport students to and from school if at all possible. This will help us lower the potential risk for anyone riding buses.
- Visitor access to buildings will be limited to emergencies or scheduled meetings. Visitors in these cases must wear facial coverings and could be checked for temperature. Our teller style windows in each building will be available for interactions with office staff. Classroom and building volunteers will not be utilized at this time in the elementary.
- Classrooms will promote social distancing through smaller class sizes in many cases and the repurposing of larger rooms. Our goal is to maintain six feet of social distancing as much as possible. Elementary teachers will move to different classrooms instead of students in grade levels where we have switched classes in the past. Classes like Art or Physical Education will be conducted in homerooms or even outside when possible in the elementary as well.
- Students can expect assigned seating on the bus, in classrooms, and other areas. This will be documented and available to the Trumbull County Health Department upon request.
- The cafeteria will reduce capacities during lunch times by incorporating a second lunch period for the elementary. The high school lunch will already be reduced due to the two day cohort schedule we are employing. There will be no sharing of food among students during lunch.

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- Our district will enact enhanced cleaning procedures throughout the buildings. High touch areas will be a major focus throughout the day. Hand washing will be the preferred method for hand cleaning and will be encouraged during transitional times. Hand sanitizer dispensers will be installed around the building and in classrooms as well.
- Water fountains will be turned off and students will be encouraged to bring water bottles. A couple bottle filling stations have been purchased and can be used where available in the elementary and high school.
- Students will be separated into cohort groups on the playgrounds to promote proper social distancing and limit interactions between students in the elementary.
- Both buildings will identify rooms where symptomatic students can be treated away from the clinic.

Technology

- The district has ordered Chromebooks for students that have indicated they did not have a computer at home to use for remote learning purposes. We anticipate these will arrive in late August/early September, however we have no control over shipping dates. Paper packets will be offered in the meantime until this is resolved.

I am sure there will be more information to come as we address specific building needs and guidelines in the coming weeks. If you still feel uncomfortable with sending your son or daughter back to school this August, we urge you to reach out to one of the building principals. They will help you consider the possibility of a fully online learning option. We just request that you commit for a semester minimum if you are considering this type of alternative.

We appreciate your support of Bristol Local Schools as we look forward to a safe reopening for the 2020-2021 school year. As of now, these are our current plans. However, we may need to alter them along with the guidelines due to the ever-changing nature of the virus. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,
Christopher J. Dray
Superintendent, Bristol Local SD