

BSBA

— BACK TO SCHOOL —

smart. simple. safe.

July 23, 2020

Dear Parents and Students,

The summer is quickly drawing to a close and the start of school will soon be upon us. We have been busy planning for the new school year in light of the coronavirus pandemic. We hope that as you read through the plan and protocols for the 2020-2021 school year, you will remember that all of these decisions were made with much prayer and the health and wellbeing of our students, staff, and all of our families in mind. Our goal is to create a safe atmosphere that still allows students to learn and socialize with their classmates.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recently released their statement that “all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school.” The AAP statement pointed out that the “preponderance of evidence indicates that children are less likely to be symptomatic and less likely to have severe disease resulting from SARS-CoV-2 infection.” While recognizing the need for schools to take precautions, the AAP president, Dr. Sara Goza, emphasized that the “shared goal” of health and education experts should be to conduct school with students physically present.

Overwhelmingly, the feedback we are getting from BSBA families and teachers is that they desire for school to be back in session. While we hope that the school’s plans will make each of you feel comfortable sending your child to BSBA in August, we understand that you must do what you feel is best for your family. Should you decide that you would prefer to keep your children at home until this crisis has passed, please contact the school office as soon as possible as we need to plan accordingly. We will be happy to provide specific information about homeschool/ online options that will allow your student to come back to BSBA in the near future without any gaps in their learning.

START DATES:

ACADEMY: Jr. K - 8th Grade:

- August 17th
- Drop Off 7:45-8:15 am

ELC: 2s-4s:

- August 19th
- Drop Off 7:45-8:15 am

HELPFUL INFORMATION

- **BSBA Website:** <http://bsbacademy.com/>
- **Supply Lists:** <http://bsbacademy.com/supplylists/>
- **Parent Portal:** <http://bsbacademy.com/parents/parent-portal/>
- **Stay Informed:** Download the Bell Shoals Baptist Academy App and/or follow us on Facebook

DROP OFF/ PICK UP

- **DROP OFF:**
 - Daily temperature checks for every student before the parent leaves.
 - Daily temperature checks for all staff members.
 - All students should use carline. During the beginning of school if a **new** preschool – 1st grade student requires a parent to walk them in to familiarize themselves with a new school, they must be dropped off after 8:45 am through the SEC entrance. Adults will be temperature checked, must wear a mask, and should not enter the classroom. After August 28th, all students will need to use carline. If a student requires additional assistance in walking to class those cases will be reviewed on a case by case basis.
 - Students will go directly to class at drop off. They will not be gathering in the lobby before class.
- **PICK UP:**
 - ELC students will be dismissed from their classrooms as parents pull into carline.
 - Elementary students will be dismissed from the SEC carline. Students will be socially distanced and required to wear a mask while waiting.
 - Elementary students will NOT join older siblings at middle school pickup. Families with both elementary and middle school students will have to circle back around and pickup at both locations.
 - Middle school students will be dismissed from their homeroom classrooms as parents pull into carline.
 - It will take longer to get students from the classroom and load them into cars. Parents will be asked to be patient as we emphasize social distancing and do our best to protect the health and safety of students.

This policy has been and will continue to be reviewed constantly for any future options and modifications.

CLEANING

- In addition to building upgrades (touch-less bathroom faucets and toilets in shared bathrooms, water bottle filling stations), three primary 'layers' being established to address campus cleaning daily include:
 - BSBA staff protocols which include temperature checks, frequent hand washing, additional hand sanitizing stations and more.
 - Evening cleaning crew addressing bathroom, desk, countertops, hard surface and floor cleanings with hospital grade cleaners.
 - Additional employee dedicated to real time cleaning throughout the Academy during instructional times.
- Frequent hand washing and/or use of hand sanitizer will be required by students and staff. Hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes will be readily available.
- EVERYWHERE if it is not possible for the student to be separated from the class.
- Custodial personnel will disinfect doorknobs/handles, light switches, lockers, glass doors, etc. throughout the school day, and the end of each day.
- BSBA restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the school day, and the end of each day.
- Lunchroom tables will be disinfected between each class/lunch.
- Computer classes will be disinfected between each class.
- AC Filters will be changed more frequently.
- Sanitizing stations with hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes will be available everywhere on campus.
- Once the water bottle filling stations have been installed, drinking fountains will be closed. Students need to bring their own water bottles to school.
- Shared toys or manipulatives used in the classroom will be limited to easy to clean items and will be disinfected daily.

MASKS

- **Mask Management: Note – Be advised that while masks are always allowed and strongly encouraged, the following minimum guidelines and practices will be in place. Based on changes in local health and official directives, modifications within these guidelines are possible.**
 - Students who are age 2 to grade 1 will have exemption options for masks unless otherwise instructed
 - All other students will observe the following minimum mask wearing requirements:
 - Entering Academy building space
 - Entering assigned classroom (must remain in room once entering; any other tasks or requirements must be done prior to entering classroom)
 - Masks usage during a normal classroom is optional but **strongly** recommended once instruction begins. In the event classroom activities reduce adequate social distancing, teachers are to have any/all impacted students use masks.

- In addition to the above, students will not be required to wear a mask while in playground, PE, after school athletics, and in the lunchroom
 - During class time, instructional staff will actively maintain social distancing and/or engage in wearing a mask
- Visitors will be required to wear face masks or face shields while on campus.
- Student masks need to be solid or patterned colors that do not have logos or characters on them. The Panther mask from MLC Promotions is also approved. *BSBA school colors; navy, green, red, white, or black are preferred.*

CLOSED CAMPUS

- No visitors allowed beyond the school office after morning drop off.
- Office staff will be working carline and not available during drop off or pick up. Please limit your office visits as much as possible. Make sure your student(s) have everything they need each morning before dropping them off.
- Campus Ministries such as BSF and Heart to Heart are currently not taking place.

HEALTH

- All students must have an up-to-date immunization form to attend school.
- Daily temperature checks for all students, staff, and campus visitors. Anyone with a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher will NOT be allowed to stay.
- There will be strict adherence to our health and safety policies for attending school. To be clear, if your child is sick, they need to stay home. Please refer to your Parent Handbook or the list of Mayo Clinic COVID-19 symptoms posted below:

Children's COVID-19 symptoms

While children and adults experience similar symptoms of COVID-19, children's symptoms tend to be mild and cold-like. Most children recover within one to two weeks. Their symptoms can include:

- Fever
- Chills
- Runny nose
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle aches/pains
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- New loss of taste or smell

If your child has symptoms of COVID-19 and you think he or she might have COVID-19, call your child's health care provider. **Keep your child at home and away from others as much as possible**, except to get medical care. If possible, have your child use a separate bedroom and bathroom from family members. Follow recommendations from the CDC, the World Health Organization (WHO), and your government regarding quarantine and isolation measures as appropriate.

SOCIAL DISTANCING/SHARING

- Classrooms will be arranged for maximum spacing between students.
- There will be no sharing of personal items and/or equipment, such as clothing, towels, food, classroom supplies, etc.
- The number of students per class will be kept small. Students will be divided by class and pods to ensure an additional layer of social distancing.
- Teachers will be utilizing outdoor spaces as often as possible.
- Grades 3rd-8th will still be rotating classes throughout the day. Shared spaces will be cleaned in between use.
- Pods: As much as possible, students will stay with the same group all day rather than mixing groups. This will help limit the spread if someone contracts the virus.
- Walkways: Please be aware and cooperate as we label some hallways “one way” and some doors as “enter only” or “exit only”.

SPECIAL CLASSES/LUNCH/PLAYGROUND/CHAPEL

- **CHAPEL:**
 - Chapel will be broadcast each morning in their classroom.
 - Parents will not be able to attend chapel at this time.
 - Students will not be required to wear chapel attire.
- **SPECIAL CLASSES:**
 - Students will still attend specials (Music, Art, Spanish, Computer, etc.) but they will remain only with their class or designated pod group for the health and safety of our students.
 - Physical Education:
 - Students will continue to participate in PE but will remain with their class group and/or pod. Social distancing and non-contact activities will be in place.
 - Multiple locations will be used to create separation at recess (playgrounds, sports fields).
 - 5th-8th grade students will wear PE uniforms to school on PE days. They will not be dressing out at school for PE.
 - Some special teachers will be rotating to classrooms instead of students rotating to other special areas.
 - Shared spaces will be cleaned in between student use.
 - There may be some modifications to specials and special schedules.
- **PLAYGROUND:**
 - Students will still attend playground but they will remain only with their class or designated pod group for the health and safety of our students.
- **LUNCH:**
 - Students in 2nd-8th grade will still attend lunch in the lunchroom.
 - We will be adding additional student eating locations to assist with lunchroom social distancing.
 - Students in Jr. Kindergarten - 1st grade will be eating lunch in their classrooms. There will still be an option to purchase a lunch.

EVENTS/CALENDAR UPDATES

- **GRANDPARENTS DAY:** While we look forward to Grandparents Day every fall, we have made the difficult decision to cancel this year.
- **ELC OPEN HOUSE:** This event will be combined with teacher one-on-ones.
- **ELEMENTARY OPEN HOUSE:** Jr. K - 5th Grade Elementary Open House will be held on Thursday, August 13th.
 - Due to social distancing, the event has been changed to supply drop off and meet the teacher.
- **MIDDLE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE:** Middle School Open House will be held on Monday, August 10th
- **PARENT NIGHT:** This event will be held via zoom.

**More details to come for Open House events and Parent Night!*

E-LEARNING PLANS

- **If a student misses more than 3 consecutive days due to health reasons:**
 - For Jr.K-8th, students can find assignments posted on RenWeb by the end of the day, and they will receive instructional guidance from the teacher daily.
 - ELC students will have access to teacher videos and/or class activities available.
- **If an entire class misses due to Covid-19 exposure:**
 - If a student or teacher in grades Jr.K-8th tests positive for Covid-19, that entire class will temporarily pivot to e-learning. The teacher or a substitute will still give daily instruction and meet with the students virtually via zoom.
 - If a student or teacher in the ELC tests positive for Covid-19, that class will have teacher videos and/or class activities available for those that wish to participate from home.

BSBA will NOT be offering our own fulltime online learning option as we begin the new school year. For families who desire to keep current with BSBA curriculum to be able to return to school in person, we make the following recommendations.

- K through 5th Grade: ABeka Academy Video Homeschool
<https://www.abeka.com/Homeschool/Products/AbekaAcademy/>
- BJUPress Homeschool: <https://www.bjupresshomeschool.com/category/Video-Lessons>

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

- **ATHLETICS:**
 - Equipment will be disinfected after each practice/game.
 - Masks will NOT be required at practice or games for players.
 - Spectators will be required to observe social distancing at games. Sit with your family and leave 6' between you and other families. Please wear masks entering and leaving indoor facilities, but they are not necessary while watching games when appropriate spacing is maintained.
- **FIELD TRIPS:** No field trips will be taken at this time. The administration and BSBA Educational Steering Committee will determine when we can resume.
- **CLASS PARTIES:** NO class parties with outside food or parents until further notice.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For additional information, please email bsbareponseteam@bellshoals.com.

These protocols will be in effect until further notice. As situations change, we may need to make adjustments along the way.

In Christ,
BSBA Administration

Resources Consulted:

Center for Disease Control's *Considerations for K-12 Schools: Readiness and Planning Tool*

American Association of Christian Schools' *What is your Re-entry Plan?*

Florida Department of Education's *Recommendations for Reopening*

Florida Department of Children and Families' *Guidance for Childcare Providers*

Florida Health Department's *Guidelines for Schools and Child Care Programs*

Pasco County School District's *Reopening Pasco County Schools*

American Academy of Pediatrics' *Covid-19 Planning Considerations: Guidance for School Re-entry*