



Bristol Township School District

5 Blue Lake Rd.

Levittown, Pennsylvania 19057

July 30, 2020

Dear Bristol Township School District Community,

Thank you to all the parents and guardians who took the time to complete our survey -- we had an amazing response rate with almost 5,000 completed surveys! I would like to share some of that data with you and also details from two important plans: our Health and Safety Plan and Education Plan.

Survey Results

With almost 5,000 respondents, the majority (46%) was parents of elementary school students, followed by high school parents (29%) and middle school parents (25%).

Ideal education options were pretty evenly split between on-site learning (32%), online distance learning (31%), and alternating day schedule/hybrid (28%), with 9% considering the Bristol Township Cyber Academy.

For transportation, the survey revealed that 70% of students rode the bus last school year. This number dropped to 54% for the fall; however, 17% of parents are unsure how their children will get to school.

Lastly, parents chose email (73%) as their preferred method of district communication, which we will keep in mind moving forward. Please check the [parent portal](#) to make sure your email address is correct.

Requirements of BTSD Health and Safety Plan

Significant planning has gone into the development of the Health and Safety Plan, which is aligned with the Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The plan will serve as our guiding principles as we move forward with welcoming students and staff back to our campuses. Various stakeholders have participated in multiple committee meetings to share their perspectives on important concerns such as distancing, face coverings, transportation, etc. Below is a summary addressing some of the most frequent questions and comments we have fielded for the past several weeks.

Cleaning and Ventilation

- Increase custodial cleaning in high-touch areas throughout the day per CDC guidelines
- Promote and expect good hand cleaning hygiene
- Place hand sanitizer stations in each classroom and high-traffic areas
- Encourage student/staff to use water bottles from home clearly labeled with their name
- Increase outside air ventilation/circulation through windows and HVAC systems
- Have ionizers in each building
 - 4 at the high school

- 2 at each middle school
- 2 at each elementary school
- 1 at the district office
- 2 for transportation & STA has 2 for a total of 4 to clean the buses

Social Distancing

- Arrange classroom furniture to face forward when possible
- Space students at a minimum of 6 ft. per CDC guidance to the greatest extent possible
- Revise procedures for arrival, dismissal, passing time, lunch, etc.
- One-way stairs and hallways where feasible
- Use communal spaces only as social distance allows
- Restrict non-essential volunteers/visitors
- Provide bus transportation, maximum of two to seat per Bucks County guidelines, use all available space, and encourage families to transport if possible

Health Monitoring

- Teach families, students and staff on how to use a checklist to self-monitor
- Inform families of monitoring procedures
- Share reminders about good hygiene through email announcements, signs, videos, etc.
- Students and parents/guardians/caregivers will be asked to perform a symptom screening prior to arriving at school or the bus stop each day (See [Symptom Screening Tool](#)).
- School Nurses will provide training to the staff and students regarding proper hygiene, identifying symptoms consistent with COVID-19, provide screenings for students and staff thought to be symptomatic, maintain a secondary nurses suite for students and staff presenting as symptomatic where appropriate distancing and isolation can be maintained, provide communication and support to families whose children appear to be symptomatic, and communicate with the Department of Health on COVID-19 cases that are found to be positive.
- Use established protocols about how students who are symptomatic are treated.

Professional Development

- Cleaning, disinfecting, sanitizing and ventilation practices
 - Cleaning/Custodial Staff
 - General Staff
 - Substitutes
- Reviewing Health & Safety Plan, COVID-19 social distancing and safety protocols, COVID-19 protocols for monitoring student & staff health
 - All Staff
 - All Students
 - Training for Transportation, School Health and Custodial Staff

Other Considerations (i.e.: Face Coverings)

- Students and staff must follow the active Governor's order of July 1, 2020, to wear masks, which includes clear face shields when they are unable to comply with social distancing recommendations.
- Face coverings required for all staff unless qualifying for an exception.

- Face shields and masks for all employees have been purchased (only one is required at this time)
- Clear, portable desk shields for each teacher
- Students must wear face coverings within 6 ft. unless qualifying for an exception.
 - If a student comes to school without a face covering, the district will provide one. Bus drivers will have them to provide, also.
- Students/staff at higher risk for severe illness will have individual plans.
- Counselors, psychologists, nurses, social workers and teachers are all available to support students' social/emotional health and well-being in person or virtually.

Fall Education Plan

Since the end of the school term, we have been working with our administrators and other stakeholders to design a safe and effective return to school for our students. On July 20, 2020, the District shared its preliminary plan with our community. This plan takes into account the health and safety guidelines presented by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Department of Health (DOH), and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) as well as the needs of our community. **On August 3, the board will approve whatever option is safest and most closely supports the needs of our students and families and meets PDE/CDC/DOH guidelines at that time. Plans may change as information and data on COVID-19 change.**

Option I: Alternating Day/Hybrid Schedule

This is the most feasible option for students to be back in school buildings while maximizing social distancing with a reduced number of students in classrooms, hallways and buses, and also an increased opportunity for sanitation.

- Students will attend school on alternating days with an assigned cohort of students. On days that students are not in school, they will be provided asynchronous assignments or possibly participate in live stream instruction that must be completed for attendance and grades. Bristol Township teachers will be creating and conducting the lessons.
- All students will be able to borrow a device (one device per student) for their home to complete their work. Administrators will be assisting in making sure that all students have a device prior to the start of school.
- Classrooms are arranged to provide maximum distance between desks. In most classrooms, this is approximately 6 feet where feasible.
- When furniture and space permits, desks/seats will face the same direction.
- Mask-wearing as mandated by the state.
- Students will be eating in the cafeteria with social distancing in place.
- One-way hallway traffic, where possible.
- Lockers/Locker Areas/Cubbies will NOT be used. Students will be permitted to carry book bags.

Option II: Full Online Instruction for all students (New and improved from Spring 2020).

- Bristol Township teachers will be delivering online instruction via SeeSaw, Canvas, and Google. All students will be able to borrow a device for their home to complete their work. Administrators will be assisting in making sure that all students have a device prior to the start of school.
- No outside programs such as Odyssey, Spark, or Edgenuity will be used to deliver instruction.
- Rigorous program where students are held accountable for their attendance and assignments.

Option III: [Bristol Township's Cyber Academy](#) (A full Cyber program with all the benefits — co-curricular, sports, clubs, field trips, graduation — of being a Bristol Township student.)

For families who do not feel comfortable sending their child/children to school under the hybrid plan, this offers a separate remote learning option.

- Asynchronous Online Courses of Reading/English, Math, Science, and Social Studies utilizing Bristol Township and Edmentum certified teachers.
- If desired, students will be able to leave this remote learning program at the end of a quarter or semester and return to whichever plan the district is offering at the time.
- Electives and special courses will be available.

As guidelines from the state and county continue to change, we will revise the Health and Safety Plan and Educational Plan accordingly. We will keep you updated on our plans and in the meantime, we hope you are all staying safe and well. We miss seeing and being with our BTSD students and community!

Sincerely,



Dr. Melanie Gehrens
Superintendent of Schools
Bristol Township School District