

7/29/2021

# Bellwood-Antis School District Safe Return to School and Continuity Plan



## Contents

Overview .....	2
School Reentry Planning Committee .....	2
Guiding Principles .....	2
Likely Realities and Constraints .....	3
Limiting Class Size & Social Distancing .....	3
Cafeteria.....	3
Physical Education/Recess.....	4
What happens if student or staff get sick?.....	4
Visitors in the Building/School Grounds .....	5
Choral Music and Instrumental Music.....	5
Cleaning and Sanitation .....	5
Hygiene in School.....	5
Posting Signs .....	6
Communication with Families .....	6
Transportation .....	6
Ongoing monitoring and feedback .....	6
Addendum to a Fall Re-opening Scenario .....	6

## Overview

**\*\*All items listed below are subject to change as conditions warrant\*\***

In an effort to open school safely, a committee consisting of representation from many stakeholders has developed a school re-opening plan. The primary goal of this plan is to ensure a safe environment, limiting the possibility of COVID-19 exposure. A survey was presented to Bellwood-Antis families and staff to seek feedback about the end of the 2020-21 school year, and present concerns and input related to the reopening of school for 2021-22. As you review the document, please consider providing feedback using the discussion feature on the Bellwood-Antis School District webpage ([www.blwd.k12.pa.us](http://www.blwd.k12.pa.us)). District personnel will continue to work to improve the plan to make the return to school as safe as possible for students, employees, and our community.

## School Reentry Planning Committee

As the plans for re-opening evolve, BASD is determined to engage students, staff, families, and community members on the various options and considerations. Committee members represent:

- Superintendent- Dr. Thomas McInroy (PANDEMIC COORDINATOR)
- Business manager- Ms. Kim VanGorder
- School based administrators- Dr. Don Wagner, Mr. Rick Schreier, Mr. Matt Stinson, Ms. Jamie Forshey, Mr. Tom Kovac, Mrs. Carol Beard, Mr. Mike Lingenfelter, Mrs. Taylor Danko, Mrs. Jen Weaver, Mrs. Nicole Engleman
- Teachers/BAEA- Mr. Tim Andrekovich, Mr. Drew Moyer, Miss Heather Erickson, Mr. Travis Martin, HS Rep, Myers Rep
- Support staff- Tim Mercer, Shae Harklerode
- Board Members- Tom Finn, Hope Ray, Tim Mallon
- Health care professionals- Nadia Andrews, Kelly Hoover
- Parents- Schreier, Stinson, Kovac, Engleman, Andrews

## Guiding Principles

Decisions related to re-opening are being guided by the latest recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and local / state governments. As we are not able to predict the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have chosen to rely on a set of guiding principles to assist as we make decisions and evaluate the plans effectiveness.

1. The health and safety of our students and staff is of utmost importance.
2. All public health recommendations will be weighed carefully when making any decisions related to school opening, schedule modification or closure.
3. We will comply with all local, state, and federal laws and regulations.
4. We will continue to focus on student achievement and creating learner-centered classrooms while meeting the needs of individual students in the least restrictive environment.
5. We will maintain fiscal responsibility.

## Likely Realities and Constraints

The course of the pandemic is unpredictable; however, we believe that there are some likely realities that our staff, students, and families can anticipate. Anticipating these likely scenarios will allow for a more realistic and flexible plan:

1. The virus will not disappear by August 2021, but the rate of infection may change. As a result, BASD will remain committed to adjusting its approach based on the current spread in the region.
  2. Students will return for in-person learning in August 2021. Although in-person learning will occur, there will be basic modifications to the traditional school day.
  3. Virtual learning will NOT continue as a daily option for students. Some students may have medical conditions that will prohibit them from attending in-person instruction, and some students and / or parents may choose not to participate in in-person learning. These students will have a full-time cyber online learning option through BA Cyber Program, supported by AIU13 Waterfront Learning.
- NOTE: In a category of Substantial or High Community Transmission, a fully remote learning environment may be necessary. Plans for full remote instruction and learning include following a schedule with synchronous learning occurring in the virtual environment. Elementary student learning management system will be Seesaw (K-4). Middle School and High School student learning management system will be Google Classroom (5-12). Microsoft Teams will be used for live instruction and communication during hybrid or remote instructional models.

## SAFETY FACTORS

### Limiting Class Size & Social Distancing

- Students will be socially distanced three to six feet apart pursuant to CDC and PDE guidelines.
- If three to six feet is not achievable in the classroom setting, students should be spaced to the maximum extent possible.
- Utilize additional spaces for larger groups.
- Adjust daily schedule and student schedules to maintain appropriate class size.

### Face Coverings

Use of face coverings will comply with state requirements and take into consideration CDC recommendations in school buildings.

- Recommend securely fitted face coverings for students and staff who are not vaccinated when indoors.
- Parents will have option to decline face coverings for their child.
- All students must wear a mask or face covering while on the school bus to and from school. (Find citation) [Requirement for Face Masks on Public Transportation Conveyances and at Transportation Hubs | CDC](#)

### Cafeteria

- Clean & disinfect high touch point surfaces in between lunch periods and as needed.
- Place signage/markings where possible to encourage social distancing in line and while seated.
- Students will be assigned seats.
- Avoid sharing of food items & utensils.

- Students will be spaced out utilizing extra seating options (locations) and/or alternate areas that reflect social distancing. Use of overflow areas at the high school and middle school levels such as: Open Gym Spaces, the Media Center, Available Outdoor Seating and or Hallways.
- Students will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer, provided at stations within the cafeterias, prior to consuming food or beverages.
- Eliminate buffet style and food bars where utensils are touched by multiple people.
- Plexi glass shields will be installed, if possible.
- If students bring lunch from home, parents/guardian are encouraged to pack items that can be easily opened by their child(ren).
- Parents /guardians will be encouraged to deposit funds using the on-line payment portal, avoiding the handling of cash and checks in the cafeterias.
- Meal condiments will be limited and provided to students on the serving trays.
- Staff will serve students all meal components. Individually packaged items will be available for student selection on a limited basis.

### Physical Education/Recess

- Teachers will select and provide safe opportunities for exercise and activities for students.
- Consider:
  - Physical proximity of players.
  - Amount of touching of shared equipment.
  - Ability to engage in social distancing while not engaged in active play.
- Students will be utilizing the locker room areas for physical education as they will be required to change into uniforms (HS/MS).
- All equipment will be sanitized daily.

### What happens if student or staff get sick?

- The District will comply with PA DOH directions.
- An isolation room or area to separate anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms will be identified in each building.
- School nurses and other healthcare providers should use Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions when caring for sick people.
- Close off the area used by a person testing positive for COVID-19 and do not use before cleaning and disinfecting.
- Based on PA DOH guidance, notify staff and families about confirmed cases while maintaining confidentiality.
- Persons who have COVID-19 symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:
  - 10 days from the onset of symptoms.
  - Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications for the previous 72 hours.
  - Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)

OR

- Negative results of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized COVID-19 molecular assay for detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA from at least two consecutive respiratory specimens collected  $\geq 24$  hours apart (total of two negative specimens).

### Visitors in the Building/School Grounds

- Temperatures will be taken before approved visitors, are permitted to enter the office or building
- Ensure all large group activities including, but not limited to athletics, assemblies, concerts, and theater shows follow social distancing guidelines, as well as PIAA and PMEA guidelines.

### Choral Music and Instrumental Music

- Follow appropriate instrument cleaning practices.
- Teachers will instruct students on proper cleaning practices prior to resuming instrumental music lessons or classes.
- Select and provide safe opportunities for music instruction for students.
- Consider:
  - Physical proximity of students.
  - Use of appropriate facilities to accommodate social distancing.
  - Amount of touching of shared equipment.
  - Ability to engage in social distancing while not engaged in active play.
  - Engagement of players at higher risk.
  - Size of group

### Cleaning and Sanitation

- The District will follow the CDC's Guidance for Cleaning & Disinfecting Schools.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects within the school and on buses.
- Students will be encouraged to bring water from home. The District will provide safe alternatives when possible.
- Use of Electrostatic Spray Disinfectant.
- Classrooms and common areas will be ventilated with additional circulation of outdoor air when possible, using windows, doors, and/or fans.

### Hygiene in School

- All staff will be trained on healthy hygiene practices so they can teach these to students.
- Ensure handwashing and other best practice strategies include washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Ensure adequate supplies (e.g., soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, tissue) to support healthy hygiene practices.
- Temperatures will be taken once per day during homeroom and twice per day in the elementary school.

### Posting Signs

- Post CDC *Germs Are Everywhere* and *Wash Your Hands* Posters in all Cafeterias and Restrooms and other high traffic areas.
- Include Posters focusing on Social Distancing and Face Coverings

### Communication with Families

- Post Health and Safety Plan on Bellwood-Antis School District Website and digital communication tools.
- Provide regular update information on Bellwood-Antis School District Website and digital communication tools.
- Prepare parents and families for remote learning if school is temporarily dismissed.

### Transportation

- Signage will be on the outside of the buses stating requirements for masks.
- In the morning students will be loading from the back to the front to reduce the amount of passing one another.
- Buses and Vans will be deep cleaned/disinfected.
- High touch areas will be disinfected after the morning and afternoon runs are completed.
- Social distancing will be enforced through assigned seats.
- Students at multi-student bus stops will also be seated together.
- Students will be required to wear masks.
- When possible, family members will be placed in the same seats.
- Extracurricular and Educational field trips may be limited.
- Roof hatches and windows will be opened whenever possible to allow for the best ventilation.
- School buses and vehicles will be disinfected nightly.

### Ongoing monitoring and feedback

To ensure the Bellwood-Antis School District re-opening and re-entry plan continue to adhere to our guiding principles, the BASD will engage in regular monitoring of our plan and its success.

### Addendum to a Fall Re-opening Scenario

1. Learning will occur in-person. There will be no hybrid learning with students in school and at home by BASD Teachers.
2. Cyber School is the only full-time virtual option, all BASD students are expected to return to school.
3. If levels of community transmission worsen or high numbers of quarantine occur, teachers and students will be prepared to change instructional models. Other options for instruction models include:
  - Cohorts
  - Teachers travel room to room
  - Hybrid Schedule- MW/TH/F
  - Remote Learning

**Start of classroom instruction in the fall**

- Parents are to take the temperatures of their children prior to them leaving for school.
- Employees are to take their temperature at home before school starts.
- Students will have their temperature taken at least one time in the morning while at school.
- Students are encouraged to wear securely fitted face coverings at all times unless students are able to social distance by 6 feet or more. The District has a limited number of disposable masks that students and faculty will be provided if needed. There will be some disposable masks on District vehicles as well. However, the District is ***not*** responsible for providing masks to students. The District encourages parents to provide masks that fit comfortable over their children's face.
- Teachers will be given disinfectant wipes to use throughout the day. These wipes can be used to wipe touch surfaces by the user as needed and recommended.
- Mask breaks can still be conducted.
- The drinking fountains will be adapted to include bottle fillers in some building locations. Students are permitted to bring water bottles. The District has purchased touchless water bottle filling stations for each school building. They will be installed once they arrive.
- The District will provide stand-alone sanitizing stations for all entrances, including the beginning and end of the lines in the cafeteria.