



Burrell School District

Health and Safety Plan 2020-2021 (Summary)

A Message from the Superintendent

Dear BSD Families,

The COVID-19 experience has been a tremendous challenge for every family, business, and community. Every one of us has experienced our own craziness during this time. As we continue to journey through our circumstances, the District is focused on providing a high quality educational experience for our learners. The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has required that every school district in the Commonwealth develop a Health and Safety Plan for reopening schools in the fall of 2020. PDE has also provided guidance for reopening schools along with many other entities like the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Department of Health (DOH). As required by PDE, a pandemic committee consisting of administration, board members, parents and employees, was established to review the proposed Health and Safety Plan and provide feedback prior to board approval. This collaboration has allowed for a comprehensive review of the proposed reopening plan based on medical expertise, community representation and the needs and realities of school functions. With the support of everyone involved, we believe a safe and healthy environment can be provided for students whose families are comfortable allowing them to return to the school setting. The American Academy of Pediatrics “strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school.”¹ Likewise, the Center for Disease Control² released updated guidance on July 25 supporting the reopening of schools citing the low risk to students and the social, emotional, and academic benefits of being in school. As we plan for the health and safety of our students, we strongly believe that social interaction and in-person instruction are essential to our students’ social emotional well-being, as well as their academic growth.

In addition, we recognize that our remote learning this spring was our best attempt to quickly transition to the stay at home requirement we faced for the last nine weeks of the school year; however, it is not an

Superintendent's Message Continued

adequate solution to ensure learning throughout an entire school year. Thus, the academic framework options for the 2020-2021 school year will include a face to face virtual option that allows students to participate simultaneously with their in-class peers and teacher while staying in their homes. Over the past couple months, our planning for 2020-2021 has focused on providing high quality educational options for our students while respecting the concerns families may have in regard to COVID-19.

On Tuesday, August 4, 2020, the Board of Directors approved our Academic Framework and Health and Safety Plan. The updated information has been posted on the District website (www.burrell.k12.pa.us). We will follow this academic framework regardless of which phase Pennsylvania may be in. Should the state declare the red phase with a stay at home order, all students will participate virtually from their homes. In the yellow and green phase, the District will remain open to families who choose to send their students to our school buildings and provide virtual options for those who do not. In addition, we have provided a link on the website for questions and comments. The District will answer the questions through the FAQ document on the website. The document will continue to be updated through September 1, 2020.

We are asking each family to review the provided information and identify the option they want for each school aged child in their household for the 20-21 school year. The parent survey results will assist the District in determining the numbers of students returning to school and those choosing virtual instruction from the home. Each nine week period, the District will check in with families to see if they intend to continue in their current option or if they plan to switch. Note that due to the synchronous nature of Options A and B, families who want to change options prior to the end of the nine weeks will be asked to contact their building principal to discuss changing options.

We look forward to a wonderful school year. The survey will be sent to your email. Thank you for your patience and assistance as we finalize our plans for the fall.

Sincerely,

Dr. Shannon L. Wagner

¹COVID Planning Considerations: Guidance for School Re-entry, American Academy of Pediatrics. aap.org, 6/25/2020

²<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/reopening-schools.html>



Academic Framework 2020-2021

Option A: Face to Face instruction in our school buildings. (5days/week) Google classroom will be used for all assignments and assessments.

Option B: Virtual instruction that is synchronous for the students regardless of location (5 days/week). Students at home will participate via Google Meet with their in school peers and teacher during each scheduled period or class time. Students will also work independently at times. Google Classroom for virtual participation and all assignments and assessments.

Option C: Burrell eAcademy provides a flexible online learning option for families who cannot participate in live instruction (5 days/week). eAcademy is not a cyber-school. Rather, it is a consortium of engaging courses provided through the WIU. Students remain enrolled in Burrell School District and experience all of the benefits and services that our district has to offer.

*Note that due to the synchronous nature of Options A and B, families who want to change options prior to the end of the nine weeks will be asked to contact their building principal to discuss changing options.

*The District has ordered a Chromebook for each student. Due to limited supplies worldwide, the District may not receive all the Chromebooks ordered prior to the start of the school year. Families who can provide technology are asked to consider providing a Chromebook/laptop for their child until our technology arrives.

Health and Safety Plan 2020-2021

The next few pages provide an overview of our Health and Safety Plan. This plan is meant to provide a safe and healthy environment for students who enter our buildings during the 2020-2021 school year.

The plan components are:

Monitoring Student and Staff Health, Hygiene Focus, Personal Protective Equipment and Social Distancing, Facilities, Cleaning, Sanitizing and Ventilation, Transportation, Cafeteria, Arts and Humanities, and Extra Curricular Activities and Sports

Monitoring Student and Staff Health

Lead Person: Health Services Department Chair

- *Parents will screen their children each morning using the Department of Health Screening Tool. Employees will screen themselves. Both will complete a google form to assure school officials that student and staff health is monitored. Data will be reviewed by School Nurses.
- *Students or staff displaying symptoms who meet the stay home criteria and there is not other medical explanation must stay home.
- *The threshold for keeping children home from school is lower than in previous years. Students staying home for symptoms and can still participate in class may do so virtually and be counted as present. Students staying home and not participating virtually will be counted as absent. The schools will monitor absenteeism and adapt attendance policies as needed to ensure personal and public health is the clear priority.
- *Students and staff will be consistently made aware of the signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
- *Parents and staff should communicate directly with the school nurse via email of any changing medical conditions.
- *Local health departments will notify the school immediately upon learning that a person with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 was present at the school or a school event while infectious. Local health department staff will assist the school with risk assessment, isolation and quarantine recommendations and other infection control recommendations. The District is required to and will take every measure to maintain the confidentiality of the individual. The District will contact the local health department for guidance if a family notifies the school of potential exposure by a student, staff member or visitor.
- *An isolation area, separate from the nurse's office, will be identified in each building to isolate anyone who has potential COVID-19 symptoms until a family member can pick up the student or employee. Clean and disinfect the isolation area regularly.
- *School nurses should use standard transmission based precautions when caring for sick people.



Hygiene Focus

Lead Person: Health Services Department Chair

- *Students and staff will be trained on preventative measures for infectious disease control. Training will include proper handwashing, coughing/sneezing into the elbow followed by proper cleaning/washing, social distancing to the greatest extent possible, no touching one's face or others, limit sharing of equipment/materials, proper use of PPE (mask, etc.), etc.
- *Students in grades 4-12 will be trained to clean their work space before sitting down.
- *Ensure adequate supplies of soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, tissue, etc. to support healthy hygiene practices.

Personal Protective Equipment and Social Distancing

Lead Person: Superintendent /Student Services Director

- *The District will follow all the recommendations of the Public Health Guidance Regarding COVID-19 for Phased Reopening of Pre-K to 12 Schools <https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/ReopeningPreKto12/PublicHealthGuidance>
- *Students are required to wear a face covering unless they have a medical or mental health condition or disability, documented in accordance with Section 504 or the Rehabilitation Act or IDEA that precludes the wearing of a face covering in school. Accommodations for such students should be made in partnership with the student's health care provided, school nurse and IEP/504 team.
- *The District will require the use of face coverings when social distancing measures cannot be met. In instructional areas that provide social distancing, students will be permitted to take mask breaks.
- *Students, parents and staff need to be mindful and respectful of the health and safety of all individuals. Adhering to the guidelines within this plan will help minimize risk of exposure to COVID-19.
- *Traffic flow in hallways and stairwells will be directional as feasible. Teachers will move instead of students when feasible. Student communal spaces will not be available.
- *Visitor access to buildings will be restricted.
- *Limit number of students in a room to 25 when possible. Use larger spaces when necessary. Turn desks facing the same direction.
- *No paper exchange between teachers or students. All assignments and assessments submitted via Google Classroom. When materials must be shared, they will be cleaned between cohorts of students.

Facilities, Cleaning, Sanitizing and Ventilation

Lead Person: Facilities Director

- *Facilities staff will be retrained in proper cleaning, disinfection and sanitization practices in August.
- *Target-Reducing number of high touch areas
 - When able, prop doors open to prevent touching handles and doorknobs.
 - Close drinking fountains. Replace at least three in each building with one touch water bottle filling fountains.
 - Touch free paper towel dispensers.
- *Target-Focused efforts on daily sanitizing
 - Custodial staff will disinfect all high touch areas at least three times daily.
 - Each staff member will have access to a bottle of disinfectant/wipes to clean high touch areas in the classroom as needed.
 - Restroom high touch areas will be sanitized at least three times daily.
 - Lunch tables will be sanitized between student groups.
 - Schools will be sanitized each evening with a focus on high touch surfaces.
- *Hand sanitizer is located in cafeteria and hallways. Additional stations are being added to instructional hallways. Hand sanitizer will be available in every classroom.
- *Students will be required to wash their hands with soap and water at least two times daily in addition to the use of hand sanitizer each period.
- *Student desks will be cleaned when used by different groups or cohorts of students.
- *Signs will be posted in halls, classrooms, and highly visible areas to reinforce measures to stop the spread of COVID-19 such as hand washing, coughing into your elbow, etc.
- *Fans in classrooms will be used to pull fresh air into the room. Heating and cooling systems are adjusted to bring in as much fresh air as is feasible.
- *No volunteers or visitors will be permitted in the school during the day. Parents who need to enter the office must wear a mask.
- *The YMCA will be permitted to operate at Bon Air Elementary. No outside groups will be permitted to use the indoor facilities for the first nine weeks. The board will reconsider groups using the buildings in Nov.



Transportation

Lead Person: Superintendent/Stewart Elementary Principal

- *Students will wear masks while entering, riding and exiting all school-provided transportation.
- *Students will have assigned seats to minimize contact. Siblings will sit together. No more than two students per seat.
- *Students will exit the buses front to back to minimize contact.
- *Student start and end times may be modified to allow for staggered arrival and dismissal.
- *Buses will be disinfected daily per W.L. Roenigk's cleaning and sanitizing plan. Buses will be disinfected daily. Common areas on the bus will be disinfected between runs.

Cafeteria

Lead Person: Building Principal/Food Service Director

- *Cafeteria will include increased seating and the use of additional areas to allow social distancing to the greatest extent possible.
- *Students will be encouraged to wash their hands prior to eating and after eating. Hand sanitizer will be available in the cafeteria in case soap and water are not an option.
- *Menus will be available on a weekly basis.
- *In cafeterias, all food will be served by staff. Students will not be permitted to serve themselves. In some cases, students will preorder.
- *Elementary recess will occur at different times and in smaller groups.
- *Lunch tables sanitized between groups.
- *Parents will be encouraged to deposit funds using the online portal to avoid the handling of cash and checks in the cafeteria.

Arts and Humanities

Lead Person: Superintendent/Building Principal

- *No choir for the first nine weeks for grades 4 and 5.
- *No full band for grades 4 and 5. Individual lessons for 5th grade only will be outside, weather permitting.
- *Choir and Band at the secondary level will focus on music theory. Students will receive the music to practice in their homes as appropriate. Instrumental lessons outside, weather permitting. No lessons will occur inside the building during the first nine weeks. We will review and adjust as new guidance from PDE is shared.
- *Elementary specialists will travel to the classrooms.
- *PE will be outside, weather permitting. Equipment will be cleaned between cohorts of students. Swim classes will not take place for the first nine weeks.
- *Locker rooms (BHS) no more than 25 students will enter at a time. Students will clean their work space (bench) before use. They will keep all items with them and not leave anything in the locker room. Locker room lockers will not be used.

Extra Curricular Activities and Sports

Lead Person: Athletic Director and Building Principal

- *Extra curricular activities may be offered as long as PDE guidelines are strictly followed.
- *During the Yellow and Green phases of reopening, sports-related activities at the PK-12 level are limited to student athletes, coaches, officials, and staff only. All sports-related gatherings must conform with the gathering limitations set forth by the Governor's Plan for Phased Reopening (25 in yellow, 250 outdoors and 25 indoors in green). The addition of visitors and spectators will be contingent upon future health conditions within the state and local communities.³ Home varsity athletic events will be streamed as feasible.
- *During a Red phase, sports and activities are not permitted.

*Students will clean their equipment and wear clean practice clothes daily. Hand sanitizer and/or hand washing should be done periodically.

*Students must practice social distancing to the greatest extent possible in contests and games. On the sidelines, students must wear masks unless outside and they can social distance.

*During athletic practices, shifts of 10 students will use the locker room at a time. Nothing will be left in the locker room.

*Students must bring their own water bottles. Water bottles must not be shared. Appropriate refill areas will be available.

*Recess equipment will be cleaned and sanitized in between cohorts of students.

CLASSIFICATION OF SPORT

High Risk: Sports that involve close, sustained contact between participants, lack of significant protective barriers, and high probability that respiratory particles will be transmitted between participants. Examples: football, wrestling, cheerleading (stunts), dance

Moderate Risk: Sports that involve close, sustained contact, but with protective equipment in place that may reduce the likelihood of respiratory particle transmission between participants OR intermittent close contact OR group sports that use equipment that can't be cleaned between participants. Examples: basketball, volleyball, baseball, softball, soccer, ice hockey, tennis, pole vault, high jump, long jump, 7 on 7 football

Low Risk: Sports that can be done with social distancing or individually with no sharing of equipment or the ability to clean the equipment between use by competitors. Examples: running events, cross country, throwing events, swimming, golf, weightlifting, sideline cheer

³ <https://www.governor.pa.gov/covid-19/sports-guidance/>

