

BHPS

Re-entry to a New Normal

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Scott McKinney, Assistant Superintendent
Donna Felezzola, Business Administrator

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District Mission (COVID)



Provide a safe and healthy environment for the staff and students of Berkeley Heights and Mountainside, while also caring for their social and emotional well-being and providing a rigorous education.

GUIDANCE FOR RE-OPENING



NJ DOE “*The Road Back: Restart and Recovery Plan for Education*”

states that “Absent a shift in public health data, school buildings will open in some capacity for in-person instruction and operations in the Fall.”

This guidance leaves it open to interpretation on how the schools will open.

GUIDANCE FOR RE-OPENING



The American Academy of Pediatrics Guidance Document

states that, “Finally, policy makers should acknowledge that COVID-19 policies are intended to mitigate, not eliminate, risk. No single action or set of actions will completely eliminate the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission, but implementation of several coordinated interventions can greatly reduce that risk.”

“The AAP strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school.”

Process



- Create Committees:
 - Facility and Custodial Stringency
 - Curriculum, Instruction, and Remediation
 - Social Emotional Learning and Health
 - Finance
 - Transportation
 - Governance
 - Operations
 - Personnel
 - Technology
 - Special Education and Related Services
 - Athletics
- Committees meet and make recommendations.
- District Administration and Board of Education make decisions.
- Release plan to the public.
- Board of Health provides final approval.

Guiding Principles



Communication

Provide regular updates to community and staff regarding health concerns and school schedules.

Health and Safety

Provide a safe learning environment for our students and staff. Also ensuring the social and emotional well-being of all individuals.

Instruction

Prepare to provide instruction in-person, virtual, or a blended model at any given time.

Access to Learning

- *Provide an equitable learning experience for all.*
- *Care for the unique needs of students with IEPs.*
- *Consider the health concerns of our community.*

Plan A - Students and Staff



- With exception of Pre-k and half day Kindergarten, all students will report to school each day. The school day will begin at the normal time but end earlier. There will be no lunch served at school.
- Students will be given time to go outside and take mask breaks.
- All students and staff will be required to wear face coverings (e.g.masks) unless they have a medically documented respiratory or other condition. In that case, they will be required to wear a face shield.
- Students will be socially distanced, when possible.
- The teacher will be socially distanced from the students, when possible.
- In grades 6-12, the schedule will likely entail a four-period day to reduce the frequency and amount of transition time in the hallways.
- Teachers will provide live interaction for those electing remote learning.

Plan A - Students and Staff



- In grades 1-5, Core Content areas will be prioritized in terms of in-person instruction.
- Our FDK Pilot will run 4 hours/day for five days per week.
 - We will refund half the cost of FDK.
- ½ Day Kindergarten:
 - 4 hour schedule with two groups alternating every three days (A, B, C & D, E, F) to allow for fewer transitions and enhanced classroom cleaning and disinfecting between groups.
- Pre-K program:
 - Program will be offered 4 days per week.
 - AM Pre-K will meet 3.5 hours/day on Monday and Tuesday.
 - PM Pre-K will meet 3.5 hours/day on Wednesday and Thursday.
 - This schedule allows for a better educational block of time with less transportation and enhanced classroom cleaning and disinfecting between groups.

Plan A - Schedules



School Schedules

	Start Time	End Time	Travel/Lunch/Break	Virtual Meetings, Conferencing, Supports & Interventions
Governor Livingston HS	7:50	11:50	11:50-12:45	12:45-2:45
Columbia MS	8:15	12:15	12:15-1:10	1:15-3:00
Elementary Schools	8:25	12:25	12:25-1:45	1:45-2:50
MKM ECC	8:45	12:45	12:45 - 2:05	2:05 - 3:10

Plan A - Proposed Schedules 2-5



Grade 2-5 Proposed Schedule for In-Person/Remote Learning

Grade Level	8:10-8:40	8:40-9:25	9:25-10:10	10:10-10:50	10:50-11:30	11:30-12:10	12:10-12:25	12:30-1:45	1:45-2:50
2	Arrival/ Morning Meeting/ SEL	Math	Sc/SS	Special/ Prep	Reading	Writing	SEL/ Dismissal	Lunch/ Prep	Student Support/ Small Group/ Conf.
3	Arrival/ Morning Meeting/ SEL	Math	Sc/SS	Writing	Special/ Prep	Reading	SEL/ Dismissal	Lunch/ Prep	Student Support/ Small Group/ Conf.
4	Arrival/ Morning Meeting/ SEL	Writing	Reading	Sc/SS	Math	Special/ Prep	SEL/ Dismissal	Lunch/ Prep	Student Support/ Small Group/ Conf.

Plan A - Proposed Schedules 2-5 Cont.



Grade 2-5 Proposed Schedule for In-Person/Remote Learning

Grade Level	8:10-8:40	8:40-9:25	9:25-10:10	10:10-10:50	10:50-11:30	11:30-12:10	12:10-12:25	12:30-1:45	1:45-2:50
5	Arrival/ Morning Meeting/ SEL	Reading	Special/ Prep	Switch Math	Switch SC/SS	Switch Writing	SEL/ Dismissal	Lunch/ Prep	Student Support/ Small Group/ Conf.
Specials	Assist Student Arrival	Prep	Special 5	Specials 2	Special 3	Special 4	Assist Student Dismissal	Lunch/ Prep	Student Support/ Small Group/ Conf/ Lessons
Reading/ IR	Assist Student Arrival	Reading Gr. 5 IR Gr.2 Math Gr 3 Math Gr 4 Writing	Reading Gr. 4 IR Prep	Reading S. Prep IR Gr. 3 Writing Gr 5 Math & Writing	Reading Gr. 2 IR Gr 4 Math Gr 5 Math & Writing	Reading Gr. 3 IR Gr. 2 Writing Gr 5 Math & Writing	Assist Student Dismissal	Lunch/ Prep	Small Group Support/ Virtual
Related Services	Assist Student Arrival	Sched. Student Services	Sched. Student Services	Sched. Student Services	Sched. Student Services	Sched. Student Services	Assist Student Dismissal	Lunch/ Prep	Teletherapy

*****Additional time was placed in the first two instructional blocks to allow for teachers to safely coordinate mask breaks, snacks, and/or recess time as appropriate.

Plan A - Proposed Schedules GL and CMS



Grades 6-12 Proposed Schedule for In-Person/Remote Learning

GLHS	CMS	Day A1 (A)	Day A2 (E)	Day B1 (B)	Day B2 (F)	Day C1(C)	Day C2 (G)	Day D1 (D)	Day D2 (H)
7:50-8:50	8:15-9:15	A	E	B	F	C	G	D	H
8:50-9:50	9:15-10:15	B	F	C	G	D	H	A	E
9:50-10:50	10:15-11:15	C	G	D	H	A	E	B	F
10:50-11:50	11:15-12:15	D	H	A	E	B	F	C	G

End of In-Person/Lunch Break

Afternoon Sessions for teacher conferencing, support, & remediation as needed

12:45-1:15	1:15-1:40	E	A	F	B	G	C	H	D
1:15-1:45	1:40-2:05	F	B	G	C	H	D	E	A
1:45-2:15	2:05-2:30	G	C	H	D	E	A	F	B
2:15-2:45	2:30-3:00	H	D	E	A	F	B	G	C



Facility Safety

- Custodial and Maintenance crew will follow a stringent facility cleaning and sanitizing checklist daily.
- All rooms will be cleared of extraneous materials and fabric furnishing to provide social distancing and limit contact.
- AC will be used along with univents and an open window to circulate air.
- A systemic upgrade of our building ventilation fans is underway.
- Hallway signage/markings as needed will be placed in buildings.
- Plexiglass dividers will be installed where appropriate.
- Outdoor classes/recess will be utilized when possible.
- Lunch will not be served. Free and reduced lunches will be provided.
- Parents will need to submit an assurance that their children do not have a temperature above 100.4 degrees. Staff will be required to do the same.

Student and Staff Safety



- Instruction/reminders on hand washing, social distancing, mask wearing, sneezing/coughing, eye contact, movement, and bathroom use.
- Frequent hand washing daily. Hand sanitizers throughout schools.
- Lockers/closets will not be used to ensure social distancing & reduce student contact.
- Faculty and students are required to wear masks or face shields.
- No in-person meetings with more than two adults. Staff meetings will be held remotely.
- Limited student transitions outside the classroom.
- Provide residential cleaner for all faculty and staff.
- Requiring staff and students to quarantine if they have been to a “hot spot” (unless they have presented a negative Covid-19 test).
- Contact tracing with the Department of Health.



Transportation

- All students and drivers will wear masks.
- Windows will be open when appropriate.
- Courtesy and subscription busing will be eliminated to allow more room on the buses for students who must be bused.
- Busing of students from 'hazardous' locations will continue.
- Buses will be deep cleaned daily and sanitized after both AM and PM routes.
- Buses will be loaded from back to front and unloaded from front to back to aid in keeping students apart.

Contingency Plans



PLAN B: Consists of all of Plan A, with the following changes:

- Approximately 50% of students will be in attendance on a given day.
 - We will alternate weeks with half the student population present at a time. One week your child would be in school for five days for a 4 hour schedule, the next week they would be learning remotely.
 - The student body will be split in half according to the first letter of their last name so that siblings throughout the district remain on the same schedule.
- Students will be socially distanced.
- Students who are on the “off” weeks will be learning virtually through some type of live interaction.

Contingency Plans



PLAN C:

- Students will receive full virtual instruction.
- Each school will have a set schedule and teachers and students will follow that schedule, with live interaction taking place each day.
- There may be individual or special circumstances in which some students may report to school depending on the nature of the executive order or district situation.*

**This would only be implemented upon a change in public health data as determined by the Governor and the NJDOE. Or an outbreak in Berkeley Heights.*

Parental Choice



- A parent may choose to send their child remotely, but they must notify the district by August 17th. Forms will be coming soon.
- Remote students will not be allowed to return to in-person instruction until the end of a marking period.
- We are awaiting guidance from the Department of Education as to whether remote students may participate in in-person extra-curricular activities.

Survey Results



2,202 parents (86%) responded to our survey with the results as follows:

- 68% of our families stated that they would send their children back to school with Plan A.
- Of the 32% who would not send their child to school, 40% of those families still said they would not send their children to any in-person school option.

Special Education & Related Services



- Individualized needs of students and programs will be considered to ensure we address all of the components of IEP's.
- Dependent upon the district plan in place and the details of the executive order at the time, some students may receive extended programming in the afternoon.
- Related services will be provided in both a remote and in-person format in any plan that includes in-person instruction.
- Meetings will continue to be conducted in a remote format.
- Child Study Team evaluations will resume during in-person instruction, with appropriate safety precautions in place.
- Discussion and brainstorming continues regarding enhanced delivery of remote instruction and services.

Special Education & Related Services Cont.



- Additional PPE is being considered for staff who work in close proximity to students (e.g. face shields, portable sneeze guards, disposable gowns.)
- Exploring in-house vocational experiences; purchasing additional resources for community-based instruction.
- Case Managers will work collaboratively with families and other members of the student's educational team to determine if additional/temporary services or support is required upon return to in-person instruction.

SEL - Emotional Well-Being



Staff:

- SEL Training specific to BHPS staff and students.
- Identify a process for staff to determine a need for referring a student to building level counselor for SEL support.
- Provided resources and tools to initiate topical discussions regarding current events (e.g. COVID-19, Black Lives Matter, stress, transition).

Students:

- Students will be provided a survey to obtain feedback in terms of personal, social & emotional concerns/stressors.
 - Determine a baseline and needs of students.
 - Identify students that have had traumatic experiences or challenging home lives that are returning to us and need additional support.
 - Promote supportive adult-student relationships: Ensure each student has “one caring adult”.
 - Provide resources and tools for student for SEL.
 - Counselor communication.

SEL - Emotional Well-Being Cont.



Parents:

- Educate students and parents on how parents can help prepare their students socially and emotionally to return to school.
- Educate parents on ways to continue to support students' SEL needs throughout the school year.
- Offer resources to parents who may struggle with managing their time at home while simultaneously being hands on when educating their child.
- Communicate with families SEL implementation, practices, and resources within school and encourage parents to support and implement practices at home.

Student and Staff Health



- Student self-health screenings daily with required documentation prior to entry into building.
- Staff self-health screenings daily with required documentation prior to entry into building.
- Masks required by all staff and students where social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Accommodations will be made for students and staff unable to wear face-covering.
- All students and staff will be required to adhere to the CDC's hygiene practices including but not limited to: frequent handwashing, use of alcohol based-hand sanitizer, stay home when sick, cover face when sneezing, and refrain from touching eyes, nose, and mouth.

Student and Staff Health



- If a student or staff member is experiencing symptoms associated with COVID-19 while at school, individual must immediately isolate and leave the campus. COVID-19 test with medical documentation is required upon return.
- If a student or staff member is in class with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, all students and staff members who came into contact with that individual will need to quarantine for 14 days.
- If students or staff are exposed to COVID-19 at home and/or outside of the school building, the student or staff member should self-quarantine and monitor symptoms for fourteen (14) days from the last date of exposure.
- Individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 are required to submit medical documentation of diagnosis, quarantine, and clearance to return to school.
- The School district is required to report all positive cases of COVID-19 to the NJ Department of Health.
- In conjunction with the NJ Department of Health, contact tracing will be implemented.



Thank You
SO MUCH
Everyone



many
thanks
FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK

Committees



Governance	Personnel	Facilities-Custodial Stringency	Curriculum / Operations	Remediation	Finance
Rob Nixon Nicholas O' Sullivan	Thomas Long Dan McGovern	Anthony Amiano Patty Gasparini	Scott McKinney Marybeth Kopacz	Marybeth Kopacz Kevin Morra Supervisors	Donna Felezzola
Dr. Varley	Dr. Varley	Dr. Varley	Dr. Varley	Dr. Varley	Dr. Varley
Chris Reilly	Doug Reinstein	Michael D'Aquila	Doug Reinstein	Bill Cassano	Chris Reilly
Kevin Morra	Bill Cassano	Emily Mulieri	Bill Cassano	Anne Corley-Hand	Jon Morisseau
Rick Romano	Diane Azalone	Joe Reel	District Principals	Grace Acosta	James Finley
Jon Morisseau	Marilyn Scarpati	Debbie Ruetsch	District Supervisors	Selected ELEM/MS/HS Teachers from Grade Levels / Departments	Lisa McAdam
Marie Pellegrini	Jackie Bartlett	Joanne Sheehan	K-5 COI		
Mike Skara	Kimberly Fleming	Meredith Morgan	6-8 COI		
	Cheryl Gillick	Johan Marin	9-12 COI		
	Ilene Gerstenfeld	Nora Nasto			
	Kristie Weber				
	Stacey Saravay				
	Stephanie Spano				

Committees



Transportation	Social Emotional Learning and Health-Staff & Students		CST/Special Ed	Athletics	Technology
Kelly Sheehan Donna Felezzola	Ashley Janosko Jessica Nardi		Michele Gardner Kevin Morra	Ann Clifton	Mike Skara
Dr. Varley	Dr. Varley		Dr. Varley	Dr. Varley	Dr. Varley
Helen Kirsch	Angela Penna	Jon Morisseau (SEL)	Dr. Crisonino	Dante Gioia	Bill Cassano
Frank Geiger	Jackie Bartlett (SEL)	Jeremy Marx (SEL)	Ann Bird	Todd Hirsch	James Finley
	Michelle Morin (SEL)	Ashley Morris (SEL)	Ilene Gerstenfeld	Fall Coach (TBD)	Marie Pellegrini
	Nadezhda Mims (SEL)	Jeanne Ringwood (HS)	Dr. Ayer		Cheryl McKinney
	Gina DeLauro (SEL)	Susan Prendeville (HS)	Jeannette Gates		Kevin Rafferty
	Noelle Fenimore (SEL)	Emily Long (HS)	Toby Marcus		Jeremy Marx
	Heather Goldstein (SEL)	Cathy Lake (HS)	Michelle Corsentino		Jon Morisseau
	Liz Bartlett (SEL)	Maggie Berry (HS)	Dr. Sempepos		Frank Geiger
	Jennifer Fisher (SEL)	Lindsey Gismondi (HS)	Melissa Mohr		
	Tom Clayton (SEL)	Donna Bokach (HS)	Tracy Procaccini		
	Maria Koulouroudis (SEL)	Joe Voorhees (HS)			

Superintendent's Recommendation



Recommendation to the Board of Education: Plan A

- While there is no perfect model, we believe that this is the best plan for our students academically, emotionally, socially, and behaviorally. Pointing back to our guiding principles, we are striving for the optimal balance of delivering a quality learning plan while considering the overall health of all stakeholders and our ability to mitigate risk for COVID-19.
- Consistency is an important consideration that was not overlooked in our design. Our model allows us to offer the continuity of instruction that we know is best for the children of Berkeley Heights and Mountainside. It also offers a reliable schedule that allows families to build consistent routines.

Next Steps



- Continue our Return to School planning, obtain Department of Health and Department of Education approval.
- Determine our student and staff status regarding the return.
- Coordinate transportation schedules.
- Provide Professional Development for staff.
- Continue regular community updates.

FAQs



Please follow this link for a document with [Frequently Asked Questions.](#)

Questions