

Return to Learn

In the time of COVID-19

A message from the superintendent:

We always get excited to have students come back, and this year maybe even more so as we have missed them over the past six months. We know that things will look and feel differently than they have in the past. Because this year will pose challenges that are unique for all of us, this document outlines the strategies we are putting in place for a safe return.

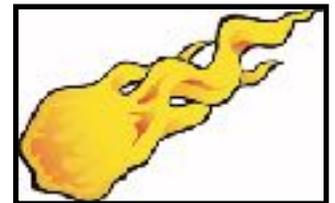
These mitigation strategies could change by the time school starts as we continue to get information from Community Health and fill in any uncertainties in our current plans.

Below you'll find our plans for On-Site Learning (school as "normal"), Hybrid Learning (a mix of online and on-site), and Continuous Learning (for students who opt not to participate in any on-site learning or online/off-site learning completed if the buildings are required to close).

Steven Grond

Three Learning Models

The Boyden-Hull CSD has developed three separate learning plans for this 2020-2021 school year. All of these models will be discussed in the following sections.



ON-SITE LEARNING

On-Site Learning allows students to return to school in person five days a week--as normal as it can be during a pandemic. At this time, we are planning for all students to return to On-Site Learning on August 25th.

HYBRID LEARNING

Hybrid Learning would utilize a combination of attending school on-site and on-line learning from home. The decision to move to this model would be a combined decision among the district's administration, the Iowa Department of Education and the Iowa Department of Public Health.

CONTINUOUS LEARNING

Continuous Learning (learning entirely from home) is an online option parents can choose at the start of the year. Some parents may have concerns about their children's' health or the health of household members. If parents have concerns about On-Site Learning, please contact a building principal to discuss the Continuous Learning option.

On-Site Learning



Our current plan for starting the school year involves returning normally while implementing strategies for mitigating the spread of viruses. Here are some FAQs about returning to On-Site Learning.

How will busing work?

BHCSD will implement many new strategies for bussing:

- Buses will be equipped with disinfectants that will be used on the buses between routes and events.
- Passengers will use hand sanitizer as they are loading the buses.
- Dependent on guidance from the Department of Education as we approach the start of the school year, we may implement routes that would reduce/minimize the number of students on each bus.
- When possible, we encourage parents and/or older siblings to deliver students to school to reduce numbers of students in buses.
- Face coverings / masks are highly recommended but not required at this time. However, as guidance continues to come our way and we gain further insight about effective mitigation factors, this could change and face coverings could be required. Our goal is to keep our students safe.

Will my child have their temperature taken when arriving at school?

No. The BHCSD will trust parents not to send their child to school when they are running a temperature or feeling ill.

What time should students arrive at school?

Please plan for your child to arrive 5-10 minutes prior to the beginning of their school day. If your child needs to ride a shuttle bus, please do not drop them off more than 5-10 minutes in advance of them loading the shuttle bus. For example, if your child's classes begin at 8:15 AM, please do not drop them off or have them arrive prior to 8:05 am.

But what if my child eats breakfast?

Students who plan to eat breakfast should allow an extra 10 minutes to eat breakfast. Social distancing, like the plans for lunch discussed below, will limit the number of students at a table.

What will happen when my child arrives at school? Will lockers be used?

- In the elementary, Boyden town and country students will either report to breakfast or recess. Students arriving from Hull will report immediately to their homeroom. The teachers will dismiss students from there to lockers and/or

breakfast in groups to avoid congestion in the hallways.

- Once students enter the JH/HS, they should put their materials away in their lockers and go to their first class. We encourage this to limit students congregating in the commons, hallways, and common spaces.
- Lockers in the JH/HS will be used to store personal items, including cell phones. However, to reduce congestion in the hallways, we encourage students to use backpacks, toting supplies for several classes at a time, to limit trips to the locker.

How will classrooms be set up?

Classrooms will adopt social distancing as much as possible by utilizing spacing, eliminating pods and groupings, and having all desks facing forward. Teachers will be using fewer numbers of kids for group work and utilizing more desk work rather than floor work.

Do students and staff need to wear masks?

Face coverings / masks are highly recommended but not required at this time. However, as guidance continues to come our way and we gain further insight about effective mitigation factors, this could change and face coverings could be required. Our goal is to keep our students safe and in school.

Will my child have a device for on-site learning?

Yes. All students K-12 at BHCS D will have access to an individual electronic device. Not all ages will bring their devices home each night.

How will JH/HS students negotiate passing periods between classes?

- We encourage students to use backpacks, carrying materials for

several classes at a time to minimize visits to lockers.

- Although the backpack policy is relaxed, we will still be upholding our cell phone policy requiring that cell phones remain in lockers.
- We will direct the flow of traffic in the hallways to minimize the potential spread of the virus.
- Face coverings / masks are highly recommended but not required at this time.

Will my child switch classrooms/ teachers in the elementary?

- Students will stay with their assigned classroom as much as possible.
- We will attempt to create schedules where teachers move more than students.
- Students will switch classrooms for some specials such as PE, art, and music.

Will there be changes to specials such as PE, band, choir, and large study halls?

Band, choir, and study Halls

- In every situation, students will be distanced as much as possible. This could be implemented by moving classes into larger settings (such as the auditorium for example) or by simply spreading out more throughout the room.
- In study halls, instructors will limit the number of students at each table.

PE

- Classes will be conducted outside when possible.
- Equipment will be wiped down after each use.

- The use of interns and student teachers may allow smaller groups of students in different locations.

What will recess look like?

Students will wash hands or use hand sanitizers before and after recess. Students are encouraged to bring their own balls, jump ropes, and other playground equipment.

How will lunch periods change to keep students safe?

During lunch periods we will implement the following strategies:

- Students will wash or sanitize hands before eating lunch.
- Tables in the JH/HS will be limited to four students per table. We will utilize additional spaces such as the art room and new lounge areas to further separate students.
- In the elementary, students will spread out, four students to each table, round and rectangular.
- Students will use dots on the floor or walls to social distance while waiting to be served lunch.
- To start the year, lunch options will be limited.
- Kitchen staff will serve all menu options.
- Condiments will be single serve packets.
- Students will clean their tables at the end of the lunch period.

Will I be able to visit my children in school or have lunch with them?

Unfortunately, no. Only people who are directly involved in students' educations will be allowed in the building beyond the office areas.

Will my child be able to check out books from the library?

Yes. Students will be able to check out books from the library but there will be new protocols in place for check in. Books returning to the library will be placed in quarantine for three days and wiped down before being reshelved.

Will schools have assemblies or large gatherings?

There will be no school assemblies unless social distancing can be accomplished. For any large gatherings greater than 50 (with the exception of lunch), masks will be required. The elementary and JH/HS first day assembly will occur in individual classrooms where Mr. Kerr and Mr. Pottebaum will explain changes and expectations related to the return to school for students and adjustments to the student handbook.

How else will kids be protected?

BHCS D will implement many other safety measures that include the following:

- At the beginning and ends of the school day, doors will be propped open for easy entrance.
- Classroom doors will be propped open or opened only by instructors to protect children from high touch areas.
- Instructors will limit the number of students who are in the restroom at one time.
- Additional signage will encourage safe hygiene practices.
- Teachers at all levels will encourage good hygiene; teachers at the elementary will develop routines that teach good hygiene.
- Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the buildings. Students will be encouraged to wash hands or use

hand sanitizer when entering and exiting the building and before meals.

- We will equip our staff with disinfectants for wiping down door handles, light switches, desks, and other frequently touched surfaces to minimize virus spread.

Will there still be a 2:30 dismissal on Wednesdays?

Yes. Wednesday schedules will remain the same regardless of the learning plan.

Will field trips and guest speakers be allowed?

No, not for the foreseeable future.

What happens with extra-curricular activities?

Each activity at Boyden-Hull will have specific protocols to keep kids and spectators safe. Specific information will come at a later date.

What happens if my family plans a family vacation?

The BHCSD will follow all Iowa Department of Health and CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines regarding travel. It is likely that students traveling to high risk states and foreign countries will be subject to fourteen days of quarantine. In those instances, students would need to move to a Continuous Learning model.

Will there be an Open House before school starts?

Open House will be held on Monday, August 24, from 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM for grades PK-6 in Boyden and 7th grade and new students in Hull. Due to the COVID protocol, we will be scheduling open house times for families to limit the number of students and adults in the building at one time. 7th graders and new

students will also be issued laptops at the open house.

How will the school respond to absences?

Parents will still need to phone in or email about students absences as usual. Due to the pandemic, parents should expect to be asked to provide an explanation of the absence, including specific symptoms. Furthermore, the school will develop protocols that require students to meet with the nurse for pre-screening before they leave the building in the case of illness. In this pandemic situation, we expect more illness related absences and will encourage students showing signs of illness (even those illnesses we typically “push through” while still attending school) to stay home. The school will provide opportunities for short term at-home learning in these instances.

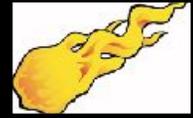
What happens if students or teachers get diagnosed with COVID-19?

The Iowa Department of Education and Iowa Department of Health have a prescribed flow chart that dictates how schools will handle infection outbreaks. You can view the flow chart at this link: <https://educateiowa.gov/sites/files/ed/documents/Evaluating%2007302020.pdf>

How will the absence policy be enforced if someone is diagnosed with COVID-19 or quarantined?

As per the document linked above, students may be healthy but unable to attend school due to being quarantined. In this instance, students would switch to Continuous Learning plans and learn temporarily from home.

Hybrid Learning



Hybrid learning is a mix of at-home, on-line, and on-site learning. The goal of this plan is to maintain student contact with teachers and classroom learning while facilitating increased social distancing.

What would trigger a move to Hybrid Learning?

In a recent press conference, Governor Kim Reynolds announced that schools can move to Hybrid Learning if county infection percentages reach 15%. The district would make a decision to change learning models with input from the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Department of Education.

How will the district notify parents of a schedule change?

If the district switches education models, parents and students will be notified by email and School Messenger. As this change may be dictated by organizations outside the district, this change could happen with very little warning. The district will also utilize social media--Facebook and Twitter--to alert stakeholders.

What would a hybrid schedule look like?

Students would attend school following this schedule (see chart):

- Preschool through 3rd grade would attend every day as per a normal schedule.
- 4th-8th grades would attend school on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.
- 4th-6th graders would attend school at the JH/HS rather than the elementary school.
- 9th-12th grades would attend school on Wednesday and Friday.

Elementary School					
	M	T	W	TR	F
P	X	X		X	X
TK	X	X	X	X	X
K	X	X	X	X	X
1	X	X	X	X	X
2	X	X	X	X	X
3	X	X	X	X	X

Junior High/High School					
	M	T	W	TR	F
4	X	X		X	
5	X	X		X	
6	X	X		X	
7	X	X		X	
8	X	X		X	
9			X		X
10			X		X
11			X		X
12			X		X

How will a hybrid plan help with social distancing?

Fewer students in attendance would allow classes to spread out throughout the building. For example, 2nd grade students in Mrs. Anderson's classroom could spread out among two adjoining classrooms. Teachers who may not have students that day and paraeducators will assist with supervision and learning. The same strategies will be implemented through the district in both buildings.

What will my child do on the days they are not in school?

Teachers will design classes so that on-site time focuses on direct instruction and assessment. When students are not in the building, they will complete assignments to hone skills in preparation for their next attendance day.

Will there still be a 2:30 dismissal on Hybrid Learning Wednesdays?

Yes. Wednesday schedules will remain the same regardless of the learning plan.

So, who will go to school every day with Hybrid Learning?

The Hybrid Learning Plan dictates that all students in preschool to third grade will go to school every day. In some instances where it would be beneficial for a student with an individualized learning plan, the district may recommend continued on-site learning where social distancing could be ensured. The district would seek parental consent in these special circumstances.

Will Hybrid Learning require less learning from students?

No. Teachers will be directed to continue teaching at a normal pace, simply rearranging learning so that the majority of class work happens at home with very little work time taking place during on-site learning.

How long will Hybrid Learning last?

We anticipate that Hybrid Learning will be a temporary event used in cases of outbreaks or temporary quarantines.

Continuous Learning



The Continuous Learning Model allows students to learn from home using digital resources.

What is Continuous Learning again?

The Continuous Learning Model allows students to learn from home using digital resources. Continuous Learning can happen under two circumstances:

1. A parent can choose Continuous Learning for their student if they are concerned for the student's health

or the health of a family member. Contact an administrator if this is your preference.

2. The entire district could move to a Continuous Learning model if high county infection rates required the change.

Will my child have a device for Continuous Learning?

Yes. All students K-12 at BHCS D will have access to an individual electronic device to use at home.

How will Continuous Learning work for individual students choosing this option?

Students who opt for Continuous Learning instead of On-Site Learning will follow their assigned daily schedule by virtually joining their classes in the building. Attendance will be taken. Students will complete all the same activities and assignments as students in the classroom.

Can an individual student move back and forth between On-Site Learning and Continuous Learning?

Students' and families' health changes may require moving from one plan to another. The district will support these decisions. Students who have elected to participate in Continuous Learning may re-enter the classroom on-site at the end of the quarter or the semester.

What would trigger a whole school move to Continuous Learning?

In a recent press conference, Governor Kim Reynolds announced that schools can move to Continuous Learning if the county infection rate is 20%. The district would make a decision to change learning models with input from the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Iowa Department of Education.

How will the district notify parents of a whole school schedule change?

If the district switches education models, parents and students will be notified by email and School Messenger. As this change may be dictated by organizations outside the district, this change could happen with very little warning. The district will also utilize social media--Facebook and Twitter--to alert stakeholders.

Is whole school Continuous Learning required for all students?

Yes.

What will a whole school Continuous Learning curriculum look like?

Teachers will be instructed to:

- Focus on priority standards while following the "normal" curriculum modified to fit on-line learning. This will include new content.
- Utilize a combination of synchronous (all students meet at the scheduled class time via Zoom) and asynchronous (students work on their own without teacher oversight) environments.
- Require student attendance at synchronous events.
- Utilize group and/or individual work. Group work can be completed virtually.
- Make accommodations, including on-site learning, for students with special learning needs.
- Require occasional on-site instruction for classes that require hands-on activities (i.e. CTE courses and lab work).

How will students be assessed and graded in a whole school Continuous Learning Model?

- Teachers will utilize both formative assessments (to check for learning) and summative assessments (to give scores).
- Teachers will provide feedback for both formative and summative assessments.
- Teachers will update grades and communicate student progress with parents on a regular basis.
- At the secondary level, progress reports will be sent weekly.
- At the elementary level preschool-2nd grade, work packets that have been turned in will be returned to families with feedback from teachers at the next distribution.

How will students know where to find their assignments?

Each building will continue to have one document where assignments and lesson plans will be posted for all grade levels and content areas.

What if my student isn't prepared to learn online?

When school resumes in August, teachers will prioritize preparing students for Continuous Learning. Teachers will add students to their online learning platforms (Google Classroom, Moodle, SeeSaw, and the like) and practice the skills and activities they may have to use in an online learning environment. Teachers will instruct students in appropriate online behavior and digital citizenship.

What if my family doesn't have Internet access?

For families who may not have access to the Internet, the district will work to establish on-site locations for learning. If your family doesn't have access to the Internet, we encourage you to contact the district as soon as possible.

How will parents and students stay updated on what's happening in the district if students are not going to school?

- Updates and information will be housed on the district's "Covid-19 Updates" webpage.
- The district will have an email address used specifically for communication regarding updates and information about Covid-19. This email will be used for the weekly updates from building level administrators.
- Students and parents are encouraged to contact their building administrator regarding questions about the Continuous Learning Model.

How will we all survive this year?

There's no question that this year will offer new and challenging experiences. It's only with grace, patience, and understanding that we can all make it through the 2020-2021 school year. We're all in this together searching for the best ways to negotiate hard times.