



SUPERINTENDENT

Tom Meyer
Phone: 563.872.4001 ext. 260
Fax: 563.872.3216

OFFICERS

Mike Reed
President
Penny Medinger
Secretary/Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Janet Sieverding Vice President
Allysen Bonifas Member
Marty Ploessl Member
Matt Wedeking Member

1601 State St. | Bellevue, IA 52031 | 563.872.4001 | www.bellevue.k12.ia.us

BELLEVUE COMETS
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Bellevue Community School District - The Comets are Coming Back to School
August 20, 2020
Tom Meyer, Superintendent, Bellevue CSD**

The Comets are returning to school on Monday, August 24 for an exciting school year. The Bellevue Community School District has worked diligently to provide our students and staff with the safest routines and environments within the school buildings and grounds. As I have mentioned in the past, we have made many adjustments to our school environment where students and staff are present. Some of these highlights include the following:

Social Distancing

- Classrooms and other areas have been "modified" to allow for 6-feet between students in most cases. This follows the specific social distancing requirements and recommendations from the Iowa Department of Public Health, the Iowa Department of Education, and other organizations.

Face Coverings (Face Mask, Face Shields, Neck Gaiters, etc.)

- The Bellevue CSD is **requiring face coverings by all students and staff when 6-foot social distancing guidelines cannot be maintained.** Students will not need to keep their face covering on when they are in classrooms in most cases, and the overall time span for students to have a face covering on in school is likely between 30-60 minutes daily. While students are encouraged to have their own face covering, the district will provide these as needed to any students or staff members.

Student Health Monitoring

- The district is requesting that each family monitor their children's health on a daily basis prior to coming to school, including taking their child's temperature. The Iowa Department of Public Health has recommended that school districts and their stakeholders utilize the following chart for the monitoring of symptoms:

High Risk Symptoms	Low Risk Symptoms
New cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell	Fever, headache, muscle and body aches, fatigue, sore throat, runny nose, congestion, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea

**Fever indicates a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, and students should stay home with a fever.*

Students and staff members with **any** individual high-risk symptom or **two or more** low-risk symptoms should stay home and are advised to seek an evaluation by a health care provider. These symptoms indicate a possible illness that may decrease the student's ability to learn and also puts them at risk of spreading COVID-19 and other illnesses to their peers and staff at school.

Additionally, more information is included on the district website about returning to school after an illness and steps required when someone tests positive for COVID-19.

Academic Involvement

- The district website has two videos in regard to connecting with teachers and monitoring student learning. The videos for Seesaw (grades PK-5) and Google Classroom (6-12) can assist with students and parents in staying connected with classrooms and teachers throughout the year, including during any type of closure related to COVID-19 and students not being able to attend school as a result of being a close-contact and being forced to quarantine and not be in school. The implementation of 6-foot social distancing at school will ideally dramatically reduce the number of close-contacts that students have at school.

Handwashing and Hand Sanitizing

- The district will be emphasizing regular student handwashing, along with utilizing hand sanitizer in classrooms and at various mobile hand sanitizer locations.

Cleaning

- Cleaning procedures are being enhanced during the school year within classrooms and buildings, transportation vehicles, playground equipment, and other areas.

Transportation

- Face coverings are required on buses and other school vehicles when social distancing requirements of 6-feet cannot be maintained. This is based on recommendations from the Iowa Department of Public Health, the Iowa Department of Education, and similar organizations. Additionally, all drivers will also be wearing face coverings on transportation routes.

Water Fountains

- Water fountains where students drink from the same source will be turned off, although the "water bottle fillers" attached to some drinking fountains are in operation. Students are encouraged bring their own water bottle (water only), and may fill at these areas or water faucets in specific areas in the building.

Student Health Information and Standards

- The Bellevue CSD school nurse, Kelley Humphrey, has also worked closely with various other health organizations throughout the state, including the Jackson County Department of Public Health. During this collaboration, she has developed some basic outlines and flow charts for students and parents in regard to proper utilization of face coverings in school and illness guidelines that will include steps for students and staff members to take if they test positive (or are considered a close contact of someone who has tested positive). These are located on the school website and will be included in an email sent to all parents.

These multiple decisions and safety steps are based on factual information from medical professionals on public health, as our goal is to make our decisions based on reliable and valid data to keep those in our school community safe and healthy. During the last several months the school board, district administrators, and district leadership team members spent a considerable amount of time working on and finalizing plans as we enter the 2020-2021 school year. We have explored many different options, surveyed our stakeholders, spoke with multiple parents, students, and community members, and developed several potential plans based on potential situations. Our current steps are being evaluated at a minimum every two weeks, and this continuous analysis will continue.

Thank you in advance for your understanding, patience, and willingness to work together for the success of our school system and everyone involved. The district recognizes this school year will be unique in many ways, but we also believe it will be an outstanding year of student growth and success.

If you have any questions please contact the school offices, and for more information please visit the district website at the following link: www.bellevue.k12.ia.us.

BELIEVE IN THE BLUE

It is the policy of the Bellevue Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, gender identity, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability or socioeconomic status in its educational programs, services, or employment practices.