

**Key Components of the Bellevue Community School District "Return to Learn" Plan  
for the 2020-2021 School Year**

*Below are some key components of the Bellevue CSD Return to Learn plan for the 2020-2021 school year at this point. Please recognize some aspects of the plan may change prior to our official first day of school with students on August 24.*

**Health and Safety**

**What changes in health and safety are being made in school for the 2020-2021 school year?**

Multiple changes are being made at this time, yet final decisions and further decisions may not be made until the district receives more guidance from the Iowa Department of Education and other entities. Some specific changes students will see in the buildings are the following:

- Hand Sanitizer - Hand Sanitizer at all entrances, in all classrooms, in the food service areas, in hallways, locker rooms, and similar areas.
  - Mobile Hand Sanitizer stations will also be located at entrances for activities and events (gym area, football field, concession stands, etc.)
- Protective Shields - "Glass Protective Guards" in offices and serving lines for breakfast and lunch.
- Cleaning - Cleaning procedures will be enhanced during the school year, and an Electrostatic Cleaning machine has been purchased to increase the cleaning effectiveness in classrooms, buses, hallways, and other areas.
- Nurse's Office - The nurse's office in the middle/high school building will be improved with more ventilation available. There will also be a separation of students being served in the nurse's office based on symptoms.
- Handwashing - While handwashing has always been promoted, this practice will be emphasized more in the district for the 2020-2021 school year. Additionally,
  - The proper techniques for handwashing, using hand sanitizer, covering a cough/sneeze, etc. will also be covered extensively for all students.
- Water Fountains - It is possible that water fountains where students drink from the same source will be turned off. This would mean that students would need to bring their own water bottle (water only), and this could be filled at specific water sources at school that easily allow for bottles to be filled with water.
- Social Distancing - The district will be adjusting several routines and classrooms in accordance with specific social distancing requirements to meet recommendations from the Iowa Department of Public Health and other organizations. The Bellevue CSD cannot guarantee that social distancing can be met in all school settings throughout the school day, during school activities, or with transportation. This is similar to when children congregate in their communities on a regular basis. But, we are working to provide the safest routines and environments for our students at all times. Signs will also be posted in our buildings and grounds to stop the spread of illness, encourage social distancing, proper personal care (washing hands, covering coughs and sneezes, etc), and similar steps advocated for by the CDC and the Iowa Department of Public Health.
- Transportation - The district will be adjusting busing routines and procedures (number of people on the bus and seating proximity) based on recommendations from the Iowa Department of Public Health, the Iowa Department of Education, and similar organizations. This may mean more bus routes, students not sitting with each other (or having siblings sitting with each other), masks worn by bus drivers or students, and similar steps recommended or required by governing bodies.

**Will staff or students be required to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at school or school events, including face coverings/face shields?**

At this time there is not a requirement to wear face coverings or face shield by students or staff. But, it is being **strongly encouraged** by the district. This approach could change in the future, but at this time we are following the most recent guidance of the Iowa Department of Education and from legal counsel in our approach with this matter. Specific areas where guidance may change include times and areas where more people are present at a certain time making social distancing difficult to achieve, specifically in hallways, lines for lunch (lunch procedure changes are addressed in a different section), and on school buses. Additionally, anyone will be allowed to wear face coverings of any type at any time in classrooms and other areas.

**Online Learning Options for Families Unable to Attend School**

**What if parents do not feel comfortable sending their students to school based on family reasons or some other reason based on COVID-19?**

The district has options available for online learning to students who cannot attend due to their own personal health issues or to reasons based on family health reasons.

The district recognizes that some families may be forced to make a difficult decision about whether or not to have their students return to school during the 2020-2021 school year. Based upon significant health risks of the student or the caretaker that make them more susceptible to complications from COVID-19 are serious issues that families must confront. If families have health concerns/reasons to not send their students to school the district will make quality learning options available from either the district or an Iowa accredited and licensed provider. Refer to the Return to Learn Plan for more in-depth information, or contact the school for more specific information. Some specifics are the following, with likely adaptations to be made in the future:

1. Long-Term Absence (Over a month...Full Semester or Full Year) - In this scenario, the students would join an online learning platform where courses would be offered online for a semester or the entire school year. The district has evaluated various online learning platforms and worked with other districts in the area to adopt an online learning system for students. This system would allow students to complete online assignments and assessments with online tutorials, and some assistance would be provided from the school district through a curricular teacher or other teachers. Students would still earn credit from the Bellevue CSD, and would ideally transition back into school at the end of the semester or at the start of the next school year.
2. Short-Term Absence (a month or less) - In this scenario, parents do not wish to send their students to school for a time period of a month or less based on family reasons and students would be transitioning back into school within a month at the Bellevue CSD. As a result, the district would provide learning through a platform for students that would resemble the option above, or potentially having the district and its teachers provide learning times for students with their normal subject areas/classes throughout the day. The second part of this option would allow students to keep in contact with the learning in the classroom through Zoom learning sessions during normal class times, completing assigned work, and still being a "class member" with their peers. A final decision on the enrollment for this shortened time frame has not been made at this time, but will be finalized by August 11, 2020 at the latest.

The goal of the district is to successfully work with families to provide the most appropriate learning environment for students. While the pandemic has created issues that

were never considered in the past in many ways, it has also allowed our district to discover new learning opportunities and approaches for our students and their learning.

### **Positive Test for COVID-19**

**What happens if a student (or staff) is ill in school, and then tests positive for COVID-19?**

The district will follow the guidance from the Iowa Department of Public Health. At this time, broad recommendations for this type of situation at an elementary school would require the class that student is in would be quarantined for up to 14 days based on being with the students in the classroom for an extended period of time. At the MS/HS level, this may differ because of contact with more students. If deemed necessary, the building could be closed at the MS/HS level with the elementary still being open. Regardless, online learning would take place for anyone not in school due to an illness. These steps are likely to change as we near the start of the school year.

### **Expectations and Requirements of Students**

**What would students be required to do if school is closed and the district must utilize online learning for students?**

Students would be required to complete the work for school during a school closure of any length. The **expectation and requirement** from the district and all the schools is for students to be involved in the learning process provided by their grade level teacher at Bellevue Elementary, curricular area teachers at Bellevue Middle and High School, and other teachers in the district. This assists students in meeting the Iowa Academic Standards for their grade level and curricular areas. The district believes it is important for students to be involved in their learning, even during these very unique times.

**How would students be given work to do for their online learning? How would teachers teach in this type of format?**

Teachers will continue to make learning activities engaging in an online environment. Teachers will be providing a variety of ways of learning for students.

Bellevue Elementary will utilize Seesaw and Zoom, while Bellevue MS/HS will utilize Google Classroom and Zoom.

Some specifics of how learning may take place in these formats are the following:

- Writing or oral reflections to learning videos, reading assignments, etc.
- Shared reading from students to teachers; Shared reading from teachers to students.
- Online "Teaching" via Zoom, "Facebook Groups", Recorded videos
- "Packet" work or work from workbooks or copied materials.
- Posting of resources by teachers with feedback from the resources and learning opportunities.

## **Role of Teachers in Online Learning**

**How often would teachers share information with students about learning that is expected to be completed? What would this look like?**

While this varies based on the age and grade level of students, teachers will be involved with students every day. At the Bellevue Elementary and at the Bellevue MS/HS, students will take part in their normal class schedules as much as possible. Ultimately, students will be involved with their teacher(s) on a daily basis, as teachers will post or share information daily (this includes classroom meetings or small groups at different times).

It is also possible that classes may meet with some students some days in a face-to-face environment and other days in a remote environment. For example, some students may come one day, with another group coming the other day (continuing this group rotation of every other day). In this situation, students would be in class one day and then watch remotely the following day. If this is the scenario that is needed, building principals will develop schedules with teachers and their grade levels and subject areas to develop consistency for the district and ease for the students and parents.

## **Technology Devices/Internet Access**

**What if our residence does not have internet, or I cannot get on the internet?**

Teachers and others will be contacting parents about access to online capability (along with the district requesting this information prior to the start of the school year), and if your residence does not have access the district will provide some "paper packets" that resemble the learning, along with providing "hot spots" for families to use for online access.

**What if families do not have a device for students to utilize, or have a limited amount for multiple children?**

Students in grades 6-12 have their own device to take home, and if they have left it at school they can contact the school/teacher to pick up their device.

The district will work to provide devices to families with no devices (or limited devices). Families should let their teacher at the elementary level know about this need.

## Potential Scenarios Overview

Below are several possible scenarios (there are more scenarios that may occur, or combinations of any of these) and the resulting decisions which may need to be made by the school district.

**Schools open on August 24** for students in a regular/traditional on-site learning structure with all students attending school:

- *Students would attend school with everyone in a normal routine.*
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**Schools open on August 24** for students in a regular/traditional on-site learning structure, all students attend school, but social distancing requirements are required/recommended for schools (more detailed information on page 13):

- *Students would all attend school, but social distancing practices would be utilized.*
  - **AT THIS TIME, THIS IS THE PLAN FOR THE BELLEVUE CSD**
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**Schools open on August 24** for elementary students in a regular/traditional on-site learning structure, but middle/high school students do school work on-line in a continuous required online learning model (Hybrid Model):

- *Students in elementary school would come to school on a regular basis, while students at the secondary level would attend every other day.*

**Schools open on August 24** for students in a regular/traditional on-site learning structure, but students do not leave their classrooms for classes:

- *Students would stay in the rooms and teachers would be the ones who change rooms, therefore minimizing exposure risks.*

**Schools open on August 24** for students in a regular/traditional on-site learning structure, but students are split into groups and attend on rotating days (Hybrid Model):

- *Students would be split into groups in their grade levels and come on alternating days to maintain social distancing requirements and minimize exposure risks.*

**Schools do not open for on-site learning** for students on August 24 (Continuous Required Online Learning Model)

- All students participate in required continuous online learning activities.