



Coronavirus Update 24 - Calendar Released

1 message

Superintendent Obeng <superintendent@bsdvt.org>
Reply-To: superintendent@bsdvt.org
To: superintendent@bsdvt.org

Fri, May 22, 2020 at 9:25 PM

Greetings BSD Community,

As May comes to a close, the school year is almost (virtually) over. I hope you continue to hang in there and remain safe as we move into a recovery phase of this pandemic; find ways to connect and replenish your relationships, but remember to wear your mask and continue to practice physical distancing.

We are working towards end of year procedures and celebrations (see below) but at the same time, BSD staff have been hard at work looking at what it will take to open schools this fall. I have established a Reopening Committee tasked with looking at all the different facets of school opening, from facilities to social/emotional support, and everything in between. As the graphic below illustrates, we are preparing a number of plans for whatever COVID throws at us, including planning for continued remote learning, traditional all-day brick and mortar approaches, or some combination of both.

Scenarios to consider: These are three possible scenarios along with a spectrum of considerations. We may end up with any combination of these ideas and may even need to implement different strategies across elementary and secondary levels.



Blended Options: - Students remain in one classroom with one teacher for ½ days or shortened periods of time

- Only a small group of kids are in the building at a time
- Remote learning at some points of the day/week
- Other

Brick & Mortar Options: - Schools are in session, students are wearing masks at all times, schools must implement “social distancing” practices (following current VT guidelines)

- Max 25 students and adults in one space

Remote Learning Options: - Students doing all learning remotely with no face-to-face scenarios. (Understanding that a future version must include improvements over our current offerings.)

While nothing is firm at this point, I want you to know that we are working diligently to plan and our team will continue to provide regular updates as we move through this process. At the end of this letter, I have included a number of items we are considering as we think through these scenarios. In the meantime, here are a few additional updates.

2020-2021 Calendar Approved: I am happy to say that [we have a calendar for next year](#). As of now, we are still planning to have the first student day be August 26th and the last day for students will be June 11, 2021. Please remember that this calendar and any dates regarding student learning or teacher professional learning should be considered subject to changes per future AOE guidance.

Summer Programming Update: We continue to want to provide some sort of modified summer programming. Our team has assembled a number of different scenarios and we are close to being able to make some critical decisions, but I am also aware that there may be more decisions from the AOE regarding this in the next few days. I hope to have an announcement next week.

Teacher and Staff Clean Out: We know everyone is clamoring to get back into buildings and clean out spaces. We will be providing systematic access to buildings for teachers in the first week of June. We are also working to develop a plan to allow parents and students to access the schools safely after teachers are finished. Please watch for an email from your principal soon.

Graduation: Seniors and Parents, please see your email for details regarding graduation celebrations happening soon! Details will show a number of virtual and in-person opportunities to showcase our students, including the experience of actually ringing the bell! Please note, for any events featuring students in person, we are following very strict safety protocols including physical distancing, sanitation, and wearing gloves for those who wish to ring the bell.

Survey Reminder: If you haven't already, please take our [BSD Remote Learning Community Needs Survey](#) today. If you include your contact info you'll be eligible for a little gift from our friends at Red Wagon Plants.

Social Media Reminder: Thank you to everyone who attended the K-5 Social Media Safety webinar last night. The webinar is now available on [YouTube](#). Please be sure to tune in on Thursday for the session designed for Grades 6-12.

State of Vermont Food Drop: On Tuesday, 5/26, The Vermont National Guard will be at the North Ave exit of VT Route 127, from 10AM-2PM [distributing non-perishable food boxes, along with produce, chicken, and dairy products](#) while supplies last. Anyone is welcome to come pick up food. Vehicles should take VT Route 127 from the Plattsburg Ave on-ramp and proceed southbound to the North Ave exit where the Guard will be distributing food. One person can pick up meals for multiple families so if you do not have a car they recommend asking a neighbor or friend to pick up the meals for you when they get theirs. **IF YOU GO:** Please remember that throughout the state people have waited in lines for hours for these distributions. Please come prepared with snacks, make sure your car has gas, and that if you have children, you can ensure they will not overheat in the car with you.

Thank you for reading this lengthy update. I truly hope you are able to have a long, safe, online-free weekend.

Superintendent Obeng

Bonus Material - Remaining Questions:

As with last week, we do have lingering questions we are looking to resolve or receive guidance on. Here are a few more categories of questions we are considering.

Policy or state guidance:

- What should expectations be for virtual and in-person student and staff attendance?
- How will schools efficiently and effectively conduct health screenings?
- What quarantine procedures should be required?
- What criteria should schools use to determine if closure is warranted?
- How will school policies be effectively communicated to students and families?

Social distance in classroom challenges:

- Should all students return at the same time, or should start dates vary by students' grade level or specific needs?
- Should in-school learning be blended with distance learning to reduce school traffic?
- Can we really keep PreK -1 students physical distancing?
- What is a feasible yet safe physical distancing expectation?
- Might classroom spacing or group size vary by age?
- What school spaces are available to be repurposed as classrooms? Are there nearby community facilities that might be used for classrooms as well?
- What staff might be available to teach or monitor small groups?
- Might teachers rotate from class to class to avoid students congregating in hallways during passing time?

Health and Hygiene:

- What areas and equipment need to be cleaned, by whom, and how often?
- What cleaning supplies will be used, and what should standards be for their use?
- Should students and staff be required to wear masks, and if so, when?
- How often will students and staff be expected to wash or sanitize hands, and how will this be handled?
- Will more sinks need to be installed for handwashing, or will hand sanitizer be available?

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