



K-5 Return to In-person 4 Days a Week

1 message

Superintendent Flanagan <superintendent@bsdvt.org>

Fri, Oct 2, 2020 at 5:07 PM

Reply-To: superintendent@bsdvt.org

To: superintendent@bsdvt.org



October 2, 2020

Hello K-5 Families and Staff,

Last week I announced in my [community update](#) that as Vermont moved into Step III of the AOE's "[Strong and Healthy Start](#)" guidance, BSD plans to bring our students back to school four days a week in grades K-5. The move to increased in-person learning K-5 is in line with school districts throughout our region. Factors remain strong in our District and across the state, with low infection numbers, no reported cases in our District, and few reported cases of COVID in schools across the state.

Here is our current plan to bring students back in-person four days a week:

- **Grades K-2 will return to four days of in-person school Monday, October 19**
- **Grades 3-5 will return to four days of in-person school Monday, October 26**
- Students will attend in-person Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays
 - Wednesdays will remain reserved for remote learning
- Start and end times will remain the same
 - Schools will follow up with specifics regarding arrival and departure procedures

Due to the low number of infection rates in the region, the guidance allows much more flexibility with physical distancing. However, we will continue to be very serious about health precautions including:

- wearing masks
- daily health screenings
- safe hygiene practices
- staying home when sick

The guidance also allows us to use the cafeteria and gym in a safe and controlled fashion. The use of these spaces may look slightly different from school to school.

Our ReOpening Team is meeting regularly to ensure we are prepared to bring all students back with a focus on safety and deep learning. We are working to ensure we can:

- maintain sufficient staffing levels
- remain compliant with the guidance from VDH/AOE
- adjust our new routines to meet the demands of more students

I want to assure you that I will continue to monitor our local and statewide COVID-19 data in order to make the safest and healthiest decisions for our students and staff. With the [current low numbers of COVID-19 cases in our area](#) and science showing low transmission rates between children in this age group overall, I believe transitioning to full in-person learning is not only possible but is the right thing to do. We know that at this age, students need as much in-person time as possible to grow and learn.

Speaking as your superintendent, and also a parent of two BSD elementary students, I do believe we are ready to return safely to more in-person learning and I will make sure our schools have the proper safety measures in place for a successful transition.

Lastly, I want to remind everyone that a big part of Vermont's readiness to bring more students back into the classroom is due to the work Vermonters have done to be careful during this time. Please continue to be safe and take care of yourself and everyone around you.

Sincerely,

Tom

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