



Important Update: BHS at Edmunds on Wednesdays

1 message

Superintendent Flanagan <superintendent@bsdvt.org>

Mon, Nov 2, 2020 at 2:02 PM

Reply-To: superintendent@bsdvt.org

To: superintendent@bsdvt.org

November 2, 2020

Dear BHS Students and Families,

I want to thank you for everything you have done as a part of this community since March when students were first asked to switch to remote learning. I have enjoyed seeing you on the fields, in the stands, at pop-up concerts, and in focus groups, and while I have met many of you, I know I still have much work to do to connect with each of you and with the BHS community as a whole.

I also want to thank you for your engagement with my office and the BHS leadership team these past few months. In phone calls, emails, and in our survey, students, families, and staff have been clear that it is important to offer more in-person instruction to students as soon as possible. I want you to know that we have heard your call to get back in-person and feel a deep responsibility to get students together as soon as possible.

As a result, a few weeks ago I asked the BHS leadership team to develop a plan to offer structured, in-person learning on Wednesdays, as our buildings are mostly open on these days.

I am writing today to let you know that after careful consideration of many options, the best fit for our BHS staff and students is to use the Edmunds Elementary and Middle School complex to provide Wednesday, in-person learning to BHS students.

Because our high school teachers teach across grade levels, the only way to offer an in-person option is to have all students in one building. The only building that can accommodate this is the Edmunds campus. While this is not an ideal situation for anyone, it offers our high school students the opportunity to connect and learn in person in the short-term.

Students will attend classes either in the morning ("A Day" students) or the afternoon ("B Day" students) to ensure we can practice physical distancing. We will also make sure that appropriate cleaning occurs on these days, that all other District and State COVID guidelines and accommodations are followed, transportation is in place, and that students are able to access food. When this starts, attendance will be mandatory for all students who are not currently enrolled with VTVLC.

I stated in previous communications that it is my goal for this to begin by November 18. However, I am working collaboratively with the BEA to agree on the details of this short-term solution, including when we will begin instruction in this new model. I will work with the BHS leadership team to communicate more details and information as soon as possible.

In the meantime, I am also happy to announce that we have come to an agreement to utilize just under 14,000 ft of finished space on the 5th floor of the Downtown Mall, above LL Bean. The space will be called the BHS Community Center and will serve many programs and purposes including space for Student Support Services, the Succeed Program, ISN, Early EL, our school nurse, Bridge-Dawn, administration team offices, school counselors (including break-out spaces), 1:1 spaces for students and staff alike, and work-spaces for teachers to teach remotely and for students to hop onto their remote classes. The space should be ready for use in the next few weeks, if not sooner, and you will be hearing more from Principal Green about how and when to access the space.

Finally, I want to remind you that our goal for the second semester is still to identify an alternative location for all students to resume full in-person learning four days a week. We have a few options that are available and this is still possible for the second semester. There is quite a bit of work to finalize these plans but I want you to know we have not slowed down in our search. I will give more information on this as it evolves, and we have a school board meeting this Thursday at 7:00 to discuss this as well.

Thank you in advance for your flexibility as our entire BSD community comes together in ways we could not have imagined just eight months ago. Please reach out to Principal Green if you have other, specific concerns that we can help address.

Sincerely,

Mr. Flanagan

