



BELLE VERNON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

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Dr. Michele Lee Dowell
Superintendent
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January 13, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardians,

I hope this letter finds everyone well and enjoying 2021. I pray that it is a better year for everyone than 2020. Last night, I spoke with the school board and we decided the student transition plan for returning students into the classrooms. The schedule is listed below:

Week of January 19

- Students in grades K-12 will return to the hybrid model for this week.
- Students A-K will go in person on Tuesday, January 19th and students L-Z will go in person on Thursday, January 21 and Friday, January 22.
- *All students will be remote on Wednesday.*

Week of January 25

- Students in grades K-3, 7, 9, and 12 will go **4 days a week** in person on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.
- Students in grades 4-6, 8, 10, and 11 will remain **hybrid** with A-K going Monday and Tuesday and L-Z going Thursday and Friday.
- *All students will be remote on Wednesday.*

Week of February 1

- All students will attend in person **4 days a week** on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.
- *All students will be remote on Wednesday.*

Week of February 8th

- All students will return in person 5 days a week.

Please note that we are still providing a 5 day a week remote option for students that chose to not attend in-person at all.

If you are planning on changing your child's instructional model from what they were doing before Thanksgiving break, you must email or call you child's principal to let them know so that we can be prepared for the correct numbers of in person versus remote.

In order to make this transition back into the schools, we are going to have to have a partnership. My staff knows all the safety precautions that they need to take in the buildings, but I need parents/guardians to also do their part.

First, research has shown that face masks offer more effective protection than face shields. We are asking that if your child is able to wear a face mask that they do instead of a face shield. This is not mandatory just a request based on medical information provided to us.

Secondly, if your child is showing any symptoms, please keep them at home and contact your PCP to determine if they should get tested. Please do not just state that they have a cold and send them to school. We have to do everything that we can to keep everyone safe and to stop the spread of this.

Finally, if you or someone in your household are COVID positive, we ask that you notify your child's school nurse. We need to keep track of all of this information so that we can identify who can be in school and who cannot.

I not asking anyone to do anything other than please follow the guidelines. If you know that your child has been exposed to someone that is positive, please do not send them to school because they do not have any symptoms. Again, our number one goal is to keep everyone, students and staff, safe and to keep our schools open. Thank you for your assistance and we look forward to seeing students next week.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michele Dowell
Superintendent of Schools