



# Belle Vernon Area School District Phased Reopening 2020-2021



The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the world in which we live. At BVA, we are prepared to reopen as safely as possible and are committed to the highest quality educational experiences with BVA teachers no matter the situation this school year.

# Belle Vernon Area School District Phased Reopening 2020-2021

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On Monday, July 27, 2020 the Board of Education approved the BVA Health and Safety Plan. The administration and I recognize that the approved Phased Reopening Plan may not be conducive to everyone's situation. However, the health and safety of our students, staff, and community is our number one priority.

With the current guidelines, we do not feel that we can currently bring our students into our buildings five days a week. However, a phased reopening allows us to move towards a five day in-person school week once determined it is safely possible. We will reevaluate our situation every three weeks through this process to determine if we are ready to bring the students back full time.

The essential aspects of this plan for parents can be found in this informational pamphlet that includes health and safety, transportation, in-building and in-classroom highlights. We included the phased reopening options for the start of the school year which allow for continual instruction in the event of a government mandated closure or a Dept. of Health closure that could result from a positive case.

Please review the following information and be sure to complete/prepare for the "Next Steps" on the final page of this pamphlet which includes a link to the enrollment form sent in the mail. As we move forward with the reopening of our schools, please remember that our number one priority is the health and safety of everyone in our Belle Vernon Area Community.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Michele Dowell  
Superintendent

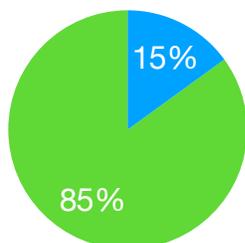
## PARENT/GUARDIAN SURVEY DATA

On July 1, a return to school survey was administered to parents via multiple means to help the district plan effectively for the 20-21 school year. We received close to a 70% response rate. Below are two pie charts detailing responses for both a five-day-a-week reopening and a building limited reopening. In addition to this data, the survey comment section revealed several recurring themes:

1. Families want their students to return to school and want them to learn from BVA teachers and in an improved method from the Spring.
2. Feelings about face coverings vary within our district (however, at this time they are mandated if students cannot social distance 6 feet).
3. Health and safety is a major concern and procedures within the buildings should be communicated to families

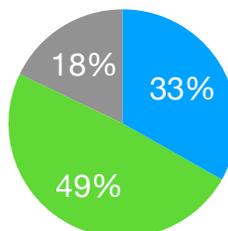
**If we are in "Green Phase" are you willing to send your child back to school full time?**

- Will not send child to school in Green Phase
- Will send Child to School in Green Phase



**If, because of social distancing and safety guidelines, we must limit the number of students in the school building, which would you prefer?**

- Alternate every other week
- Two days a week
- My child(ren) stay at home for distance learning



# Belle Vernon Area School District Phased Reopening 2020-2021

## BVA HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN

### Busing and Transportation



- Prior to leaving home, parents should screen children for COVID-19 symptoms and a temperature below 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit
- Students must wear a face covering upon entering the bus
- Social distancing at bus stops
- Hand sanitizer on all buses, assigned seats, and posted bus rules
- Same family students will be seated together, front rows will be left empty, reduced riders, and windows open when possible
- Buses will be sanitized after each bus run
- Bus passes will be pre-approval for emergencies only

### New In-School Safety Protocols



- Adherence to PA Department of Health, PDE, and CDC guidelines
- Temperature checks will occur upon entering the building
- Cafeterias will be modified for social distancing
- Meals will be served in elementary classrooms or the cafeteria
- Both hot and cold meals will be served take-out style with disposable utensils
- Hallways and stairwells will be one direction when possible
- Social distancing of 6ft or more will be maintained when possible

### Classroom Safety Protocols



- Face coverings must be worn in hallways and into the classroom
- PDE requires face coverings when students are not 6ft apart
- Teachers will spray desks between each class
- Hand sanitizer will always be available
- All staff will utilize face coverings
- Class sizes will be smaller to promote social distancing and larger classes will be relocated if necessary

### Health and Wellness



- All high touch surfaces will be cleaned routinely
- Hand sanitation centers will be strategically placed throughout the building
- Students will be encouraged and taught to wash hands frequently
- Contingency plans are in place if there is a positive case in the school or district to keep all safe
- Staff will be trained on all safety procedures and will be provided tools to educate students on health and safety

### BVA @ Home



- Through the use of Zoom, **BVA teachers** will be able to connect during scheduled class times for live lessons that follow student schedules
- Students will be able to interact with their teachers and peers
- This will allow for continuous learning no matter the situation

# Belle Vernon Area School District Phased Reopening 2020-2021

## PHASE 1 LEARNING OPTIONS

### OPTION 1: In-Person and BVA@ Home



Learning Option 1: Hybrid Model: Two days in Person with three days remote live-streamed lessons by BVA teachers.

- Students with the last name starting with A-K will attend school on Monday and Tuesday and learn remotely Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
- Students with the last name starting with L-Z will attend school on Thursday and Friday and learn remotely Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday
- All learning from home will stream live and on scheduled school day class times.

### OPTION 2: BVA @ Home Remote Learning



BVA@Home will occur all five days through remote live learning by your BVA teachers. Live Zoom lessons broadcast from the classroom to connect all students with peers and their teachers.

Students will follow their schedule from home the way they would in the building. These days will count as full instructional days a part of the 180 day school year.

Students will have access to the same information, classwork, peer cooperative learning, peer discussions, and communications with the teacher from home.

Students will be asked to use their own devices whenever possible. If it is not possible, the parent/guardian can address on our enrollment form.

# Belle Vernon Area School District

## Phased Reopening 2020-2021

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. Will my child have to wear a face covering all day in a hybrid model?**
  - Face coverings are required to board buses, enter the school, and any time thereafter they are not 6ft apart.
  - With this plan, students should be able to remove face coverings in most classroom settings.
  - Students with medical documentation can be made exempt from face coverings.
  - Face coverings do not need to be worn when eating or drinking.
- 2. This plan talks about “Phase 1” what is Phase 2 and what is the criteria for going to Phase 2?**
  - Phase 2 is a transition to a five-day-a-week return for all students when restrictions are lifted.
  - During Phase 2, those who choose can still be fully remote with BVA@Home.
  - There is not a specific criteria for returning to a five-day in-person school week. Staff and the BVA Board of Directors will discuss Phase 2 every three weeks beginning September 22nd 2020.
- 3. How will BVA improve the continuity of education from this Spring?**
  - BVA@Home brings the classroom to home through the use of live zoom sessions and student interaction with the teacher while incorporating Google Applications.
  - Synchronous or same time learning will occur for all classes.
  - We are not in the same emergency shut-down and have had time to plan to address the many needs and situations of our students.
  - We will operate with our standard grading system as well as record student attendance.
- 4. What happens if we the Governor orders us to go into “Yellow” or “Red”?**
  - By opening with Phase 1, we will be able to easily transition if students are not permitted back in school.
- 5. What is the difference between BVA@Home and BVA eAcademy?**
  - BVA@Home utilizes all BVA teachers and live instruction and interaction.
  - BVA eAcademy is self-paced and utilizes teachers from the county.
  - BVA eAcademy is a possible alternative; speak with your building principal to learn more (both are offered K-12)
- 6. If I chose to send my child back now but change my mind later is that okay?**
  - If it is what is best for your child, we can make adjustments. However, we prefer students stick with their choice.
- 7. How will my child continue to grow socially and emotionally at school?**
  - Social and emotional development as well as mental health are all important parts of any child’s development and well-being. We have and will continue to support all students with their development.
- 8. Did the administration investigate larger learning spaces for students**
  - Yes, and some make functional sense and are may to be used such as auditoriums, gyms, and stages if needed.
  - Alternative locations such as the Multiplex, RMS, or the stadium lack emergency access to nursing services and would pose a safety issue.
  - Alternative spaces may not allow for specials or class changes that their peers would receive in school buildings.
  - Finally, all outdoor spaces are weather dependent.

# Belle Vernon Area School District Phased Reopening 2020-2021

## NEXT STEPS FOR PARENTS & COMMUNICATIONS INFO

### Next Steps Checklist for BVA Parent(s)/Guardian(s)



- [Review the district's Health and Safety return to school plan](#)
- [Complete enrollment form \(by mail or Google Form\)](#)
- [Check our website for parent meetings or tutorials to help prepare for at home technology and our new Sapphire student information system \(replacing eSchools\)](#)
- Check your mail for this year's transportation arrangements (August)
- Prepare to the best of your ability a learning space for your child(ren) in your home (check back our website in August for help with this)
- If you have an email, phone number, or address update, please contact your building principal (724-808-2500)

<i>BVAHS</i>	<i>Dr. Michael Sable</i>	<i>Ext. 2513</i>
<i>BVAMS</i>	<i>Mr. John Grice</i>	<i>Ext. 3511</i>
<i>MES</i>	<i>Dr. Deidra Stepko</i>	<i>Ext. 4511</i>
<i>RES</i>	<i>Dr. Jennifer Godzak</i>	<i>Ext 5511</i>



### This August, we will launch virtual orientations for all students and parents to aid in this transition.

For this and all other Return to School Communications and updates, please check out our new Return to School page on [bvasd.net](http://bvasd.net) or use the QR code below.

Also, please utilize Facebook, Twitter, Peachjar, and District and Building specific web pages to stay up to date.



**Our Alma Mater,  
We'll Be True to Thee.  
To Valor and Integrity  
We Pledge Our Loyalty.  
Hail, Mighty Leopards  
Our Hearts Remain  
In Steadfast Love for  
GOLD AND WHITE  
Our Memories Not In Vain.**

# #HML