



BETHLEHEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Sue Greenlaw, Principal

August 5, 2021

Dear BES Families,

We were certainly all hoping for a return to normalcy for the 2021-2022 school year, but, unfortunately, the coronavirus continues to be part of our lives. This week the SAU 35 administrative team met to try to create some consistency around the 2021-2022 school year. What I'm sharing is preliminary and, of course, subject to change. I certainly understand that even a rough plan will be helpful at this point!

*At 7:25 the students will begin to enter the building and will go directly to their classroom. Kids will be able to arrive from 7:25-7:50 and will be greeted at one of our three front doors. After 7:50, your child will be considered tardy. Have your child plan to enter through the same door they did last year. Kindergarten parents and new students will receive further information. Preschoolers will arrive at 8:00 and enter through the door on the left side of our building.

*The school day will end at 2:30. It will end at 11:30 for our preschoolers.

*Mask wearing will still be required unless the students are outside or able to maintain three feet of physical distance in the classroom. Close group work will require mask wearing. This will definitely allow for more unmasked time than last year!

*Breakfast will continue to be served in the classrooms.

*Lunch will be served in the cafeteria. We are purchasing portable ventilators for the cafeteria, and kids will be seated in a safe manner either with barriers or all facing in the same direction with physical distance.

10:45-11:15 PreK-2 Lunch: PreK and K will be eating in their classrooms

1st and 2nd will eat in the cafeteria

11:15-11:40: Grades 4/5 will be eating in the cafeteria

11:45-12:15: Grades 3/6 will be eating in the cafeteria

*Recesses can happen throughout the day like last year. This will allow for teachers to find a time when there are not large groups of students outside. This will help to protect our cohorts as much as possible.

*We will no longer be doing temperature checks and weekly forms. We do ask that you inform the school IMMEDIATELY if you or anyone in your home develops symptoms. We also ask that you inform us IMMEDIATELY if you or anyone in your family is exposed to someone with Covid. The Delta variant is highly contagious and is affecting children more easily than previous forms of the virus. None of our population of students, with the exception of 12 year olds, has been vaccinated so we need to continue to be vigilant about safety.

*If your child develops symptoms, they will need to be picked up at school immediately. They will need to stay out of school for 10 days or get a negative Covid test to return. Even with a negative Covid test, if the symptoms persist, they should be kept home.

*If wearing masks, students will possibly be grouped with students outside of their class to best meet educational needs. We will do our best to maintain the smallest cohorts possible, but there will definitely be more mixing.

Keeping our kids safe will require all of us to continue to work together with patience and understanding. The BES staff has worked hard to ensure safety while at the same time provide as much normalcy as possible for our students. We need to continue to be transparent throughout this process. I have said it before and will say it again, I deeply appreciate the support I got from our community last year, and with that continued support, we will make this work!

Class lists will be posted on the glass doors at the entrance to the school on Friday, August 13 by noon!!

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me! The BES Board will be approving this "tentative" plan at their monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 10, at 5:30.

Best wishes and be well,


Sue Greenlaw