



BETHLEHEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Sue Greenlaw, Principal

January 7, 2021

Dear BES Families,

The 19th of January is fast approaching. We all look forward to welcoming our students back into the building! I wanted to make sure that everyone understands the importance of continuing to follow the safety protocols we had in place prior to going remote in November. Masks will be worn throughout the day with the exception of eating, drinking and mask breaks. Class numbers will remain at ten students or less. Your child's arrival time as well as the door they enter will be the same as it was in the fall. The Sunday night form will need to be completed prior to your child entering the building at the beginning of each week. The school hours will remain 7:30-1:30 and as of right now it appears that rec will begin on the 19th as well.

I know being remote is a huge challenge for families. My hope is that we will be able to stay in person until the end of the school year. In order for that to happen, we all must work together to follow the guidelines. Gathering with folks outside of your family or hosting parties, sleep overs or indoor play dates for your kids could result in the spread of infection which, in turn, could force us to shut down again. Vigilance is the only thing that will allow us to remain open. I am charged with ensuring the safety of our students but also the safety of all of our staff, and I don't take that responsibility lightly. Keeping sick kids at home or voluntarily quarantining if you connect with anyone outside of your family is what will allow us to stay open.

Breakfast Before the Bell is a program that provides breakfast for all students. Here is a link to a form that will allow you to decline this program; <https://forms.gle/nQF8pQH9dmzdxBnQ9> . If your child eats breakfast at home, please fill out the form. We found we were throwing away a lot of food prior to being remote. Thanks for your help as we hate to throw away food!

We will be doing our winter benchmarking beginning the week of January 25. This is an important opportunity to see the students' strengths and weaknesses so we can appropriately plan instruction moving forward.

If we find we have a case in the building, we will close for the shortest amount of time possible. We will not close for the length of time we were previously closed. Our November to January closure was based on a case in the building, the upcoming holidays and families traveling. We also did not want to be in the building and out of the building because those transitions definitely interrupt the routines that families had started. As it turned out, we did have another case but because we were remote did not need to shift again. If we have any cases in the building once we return to school, those cases will be handled on a case by case basis with everyone's safety in mind.

If your child had been attending in person and you would like to shift to distance learning, please let me know right away. Families who are distance learning will have the opportunity to return to school on March 5, 2021, which is the end of the second trimester.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me with ANY questions. I look forward to seeing you on the 19th!

Be well,

Sue Greenlaw
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