

## 2020-2021 Questions and Answers to the New School Year

**We have had some questions come our way and wanted to share them with you so you may be informed with what is going on for the school year. This summer has been one like never before, and I want to confirm that we have been working very hard to make sure the students have a wonderful school year. Bridgeport is truly future minded, and we are structuring everything so the transitions that could take place between learning at school or at home are seamless for the students and consistent for you parents. In advance, I want to thank you for taking the time to watch this question and answer format. This will be posted on our school website and we will be pushing this out through our district app.**

- At home, using the COVID-19 screener feature on the district app, parents are asked to verify each morning if their child is healthy or displaying symptoms. You will simply & securely submit your answers directly through the district app, and you will be instructed if you are cleared to come to campus or not. Further Instructions will be provided if your child is not cleared to come on campus. Please remember to notify the school and keep your child home.
- Bus Protocols – —
  - Please have your child at the bus stop 5 to 10 minutes prior to the bus arrival time. This also applies to drop offs as well.
  - No bus students dropped off before 7:35am.
  - Only one bus drops off their students at a time.
  - There will be no waiting outside of the building in the front or back of the building in groups.
  - Career Center students will enter wait in the gym.
- **What will transportation look like?** We wish to thank all families that responded that you are willing help us out by transporting your child to and from school. All students riding a bus must wear a face mask. As students board the bus, hand sanitizer will be available for them to use. We will also assign all bus seats for students this year and students in the same families will sit together. Buses will also be disinfected after each morning and afternoon route.
- **Will students be able to ride home different buses this year to a friend's house?** No, due to our attempts to social distance to the fullest extent possible, bus passes will not be provided to any student.
- Entering Building
  - Temperature Checks will be at the Front door where students are dropped off to school and the back doors where bus riding students are dropped off.
  - Hand Sanitizer – Available at school entrances, gyms, cafeteria, and all classrooms.
  - Locker Use – For grades 5-12, we are encouraging books bags to be used during the day as students move throughout the building. Lockers will only be used in the:
    - Morning
    - Before and After Lunch
    - End of the day

**How can I stay updated on any changes, emergencies, events, and announcements throughout the school year?** While we are not able to predict what future changes may or may not be part of our future, based on our experience since mid-March, we feel it is wise to expect changes to occur. Please make sure your contact information is correct on your online EMA form so that informational and emergency calls will be sent to your correct contact number. It is also recommended for any parent/student who does not currently have the Bridgeport School Info app to download this as soon as possible. This app is free through Google Play or the Apple app store.

- **Are there changes to the school calendar?** Yes, the updated 2020-2021 school calendar can be found on the district website and the District app. Students first day of school is on August 31<sup>st</sup>. We will be contacting you to bring your children in during the week of August 24<sup>th</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup> so we may work out details with our iPads, curriculum, email, and commonly used sites.
- **When will students attend Bridgeport and on what schedules?** We will offer face to face, in-school instruction every day based upon the level designated by the Belmont County Health Director, in collaboration with the superintendent.
  - Level 1 and Level 2 we will be instructing all students in the school. Students will be in school daily. (Color-code Green)
  - Level 3 will mean we will be instructing students on a hybrid model of 50% in school on a designated day to allow for social distancing. (Hybrid Model is defined as: students will attend school half of the time and attend from home half of the time). (Color-code Yellow)
  - Level 4 will mean we will use all remote learning and a shutdown of our buildings to students. Students will be expected to attend school from home. (Color-code Red)
  - As stated earlier, the district will communicate our Level through the district app, all call system, and the district web site.
- **Will social distancing be utilized?** We will practice social distancing as much as possible. In classrooms, seating may be arranged to all face in the same direction and will be spaced as far apart as possible.
- **Will masks be required?** Students and staff will need to wear masks following our face-covering protocols.
  - **Students grades K-12:** A mask or face shield is required in the hallways, bathrooms and in classrooms. When students are appropriately spaced in a classroom, the teacher may allow mask breaks.
  - **Students PK:** No mask or face shield is required.
  - **Faculty and Staff:** Masks are required in the hall and in classrooms with students. When students are appropriately spaced, the teacher may remove the mask while wearing a face shield.
  - **Parents/Guardians:** The school district is providing one washable mask to every student. It would be a good plan to have more masks available for your child. A good rule of thumb may be to have your child bring two masks to school in case another is needed in the event of an accident.
  - **I Don't Want My Child Wearing a Mask:** We know that there may be some strong feelings regarding this topic. Governor DeWine has mandated that all students K-12 wear face coverings while at school. If your child falls under an

exemption to not wear a mask, please contact your child's principal to fill out an exemption form.

- For all children, especially the youngest, it is advised that parents/guardians discuss wearing masks with their children, practice wearing the mask, and talk about the importance of this practice. This may make the transition to wearing a mask at school a much smoother.

- **How will my child's IEP and/or 504 services and accommodations be met?** Your child's intervention Specialists/teacher will communicate with you about adjustments to schedules, services or the delivery model that may be necessary to individually meet the needs of your child.

- **How will students be spaced out during breakfast and lunch?** We will maximize available spaces for distancing and use alternate spaces beyond cafeterias.

- **In the event my child is at home for remote learning, can they still get breakfast and lunch if they qualify as free or reduced?** Absolutely. Please call the cafeteria supervisor, Donna Burlenski at 740-635-0853 x4290 to place your order for the week. This call will need completed by 9 am on Friday of the week before. We will deliver these to you outside the back-cafeteria entrance between the hours of 8:30 to 9 am. Also, parents, please remember to fill out the free and reduced lunch application on the main page. This icon is on the right-hand side and is orange. The federal government and state use our free and reduced percentages to distribute federal and state funding. So please, every application matters and we ask that everyone fill this out this year.

- **How can I help my child with lunches?** As you do every year, please take some time prior to the school year to help your child learn how to open their lunch items. Possibly consider placing hard to open lunch items in plastic bags so your child has success opening and eating all items of their lunch.

- **I drop off and pick up my child at school. Will anything change?** Elementary Drop-Off in the morning: Parents/guardians will pull up in front of the elementary front doors, their child/children will exit their car, their temperature will be taken by a staff member prior to them entering the building. A staff member inside the elementary doors will ask if the child/children are eating breakfast and direct them accordingly based on their answer. Parents/guardians are required to follow social distance guidelines while in line waiting for their child/children to be dismissed.

Elementary Pick-Up in the afternoon: Parents/guardians are to be outside in line prior to the 2:35 pm dismissal time (dismissal will occur once all buses are parked in front of the building). Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students along with their 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade siblings will be dismissed out of the elementary front doors. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students without Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> grade siblings will be dismissed out of the elementary side doors, located on the playground on the right side of the building. Parents/guardians are required to follow social distance guidelines while in line waiting for their child/children to be dismissed to them. All parents are required to park in the front parking lot as buses will be using the driveway.

- **Can my child bring in a fillable water bottle this year?** We encourage all students to have a water bottle with a lid for this year. Please make certain it is cleaned and filled before your child arrives at school. Water fountains will be shut off; however, we are installing water bottle fillers in case your child wishes to fill their water bottle. Water bottles may also be filled by using classroom sinks as well.

- **Are high school, middle school and elementary students going to switch classrooms during the day?** Yes, whether we are following the “All In” or “Hybrid” model, students will follow a normal schedule. Face masks or face shields must be worn in the hallways. Once arriving to classes, hand sanitizer will be available for students to use.
- **What changes will be implemented on playgrounds and in PE classes?** We will make every effort to maintain consistency while following safety protocols. This may mean that elementary students on the playground may utilize various locations, and students will sanitize their hands after all classes and recess.
- **What cleaning enhancements are being implemented in the school?** We have stocked up on hand washing materials, hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies. In addition to our regular cleaning schedule, we will be disinfecting commonly used areas frequently. During lunches and each night, we will be disinfecting all classrooms.
- **Will Bulldog Pride Night happen this year?** No, Bulldog Pride Night has been cancelled for this school year due to COVID19. Our hope is to have this scheduled again for next year.
- **Will the middle school after-school learning program continue this year?** Yes, the middle school After Hours Academy (AHA) will continue after school and follow the district’s safety measures.
- **In the event that Bridgeport moves to a Purple status, will transportation to the Career Center, BCAP and other schools be occurring?** If the superintendent and Belmont County Health Director determine that students from Bridgeport are to learn at home, we will not offer transportation.
- **Will parents/visitors be allowed in the building?** We are limiting visitors to promote health, safety, and social distancing. Parents/visitors must wear a face mask or face shield before entering the building, temperatures will be taken, and hand sanitizer will be available. All visitors must ring the doorbell and wait for permission to enter the building.
- **Will schools be open all year? Will these procedures be in place all year?** This pandemic moves quickly and without bias. We cannot guarantee what the rest of the school year will look like. If cases surge, we may shift to remote learning from home. If the situation improves, we may be able to look at our procedures of this plan and return to more normal operating conditions.
- **Will students be screened for COVID-19 symptoms?** Parents, please be attentive to the daily health of your children. The district app will include a COVID-19 screening feature where you will report each day if your child is healthy or displaying symptoms. You will simply & securely submit your answers directly through the district app and be instructed if you are cleared to come to campus or not. We are also requesting that you sign an expectation agreement indicating your commitment to ensure your child is symptom free and safe to attend school each day. This includes being fever free for 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medicine. School faculty will also be receiving professional development on how to recognize potential COVID-19 symptoms. No one should be in our buildings if they are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19. We will also be checking temperatures as students enter our buildings. If any student/faculty member is displaying a temperature above 100.4, they will be sent home immediately. Parents, please ensure your contact information is up to date on your online EMA form. This will allow you to receive communications through our all call system and through personal outreach.

- **Will IEP conferences be held at the school this year?** All IEP conferences will be held through Zoom meetings. Copies of the IEP can be sent home if requested and parents will sign the document electronically.
- **What will happen if someone tests positive for COVID-19?** If the Belmont County Health Department confirms a case of COVID-19, the school district will follow their direction. This could include many scenarios including a group of students learning from home via remote learning. Many of our procedures are designed so they may contact trace should a case be confirmed. These procedures will help the Belmont County Health Department quickly identify and contact individuals who may have been exposed. Again, representatives from the Belmont County Health Department will contact you if needed.
- **How will attendance be monitored?** The state of Ohio requires that student attendance be monitored daily. This could look different depending on whether students are here every day, receiving instruction via the hybrid model or at-home remotely receiving instruction from Bridgeport Staff. Regardless of the instructional model, student attendance will be monitored.

For a short update on Perkins Field, the district received the geotechnical report which showed that the area supporting the old grandstands has soil that was not adequately supporting that structure. Proactively, the board is taking the steps necessary to make sure the new bleachers and press box will be supported and reinforced per guidance from our geotechnical report. Our hope is to return to Perkins Field during our week 9 game vs Shadyside. The board of education and stadium committee is continuing to work towards our return as well as planning for and finalizing improvements to the Perkins Field site. As these updates continue to happen, we will share them with you through our district app, the newspaper and local news.

I hope this question and answer video has answered some of your questions. On behalf of the Bridgeport School District, I want to wish everyone a safe, healthy, and happy school year. Please know that many changes will still be coming down the road and we will do our very best to keep you informed. Students, we all miss you very much and cannot wait to have you back at school. Thank you all, have a wonderful week and as always Go Dogs!