



July 16, 2020

Dear Bruin Family,

Since May, we have been planning for the re-opening of school for the 2020-2021 school year. On Thursday, July 2nd, Governor DeWine released the State of Ohio's expectations for re-opening. We have also been working with school leaders across the area to determine the best options for St. Teresa of Avila School. Today, I am sharing the plans for St. Teresa developed by our team in alignment with guidance from the Ohio Department of Health, the Hamilton County Health Department, and area educational leaders.

Please take time to read over the attached plans outlining four different scenarios, plus plans for excessive heat, that we might expect to encounter in the upcoming school year. In short, Level 1 would be a return to school in a normal schedule and students would rotate classes. Level 2 is opening the school year with bringing all students back to campus five days a week with restrictions, striving for 3 feet of distance between desks. Students would stay in their homerooms and teachers would rotate classes. In Level 3, we would implement a program where half of the students are here two days a week while the other half are working from home online, all students are virtual on one day, and staff works all five days a week. This would allow students to social distance at 6 feet in the classrooms. Finally, Level 4 would be the closure of the school building, with all students participating in remote learning. After careful consideration, we anticipate opening under the Excessive Heat Level 2 due to expected hot weather at the start of the school year. This means we will begin the school year with all students and staff participating in face-to-face instruction five days a week.

For families who are uneasy about returning to in-person learning at this time due to students or family members who are high-risk, we are considering providing instruction online through Zoom and then utilizing our online Blended learning content. Students will follow the same schedule the students are following in the classroom. They will participate in class through Zoom. Teachers will post content on Google Classroom for students/parents to follow. All students will be expected to participate in each Zoom class every day. If a student is not able to get on Zoom that day, the parent is required to let the school know.



Some of the following procedures that we will operate under for the opening of the school year include:

- Students will stay in their homeroom for the majority of the day with teachers rotating classrooms.
- Students in grades K-8 and staff will wear masks.
- We will strive to provide as much social distancing as possible.
- Increased cleaning and disinfecting will occur. Teachers will be supplied with necessary cleaning materials to wipe down surfaces during the school day. The school will be disinfected after school each day as well. Hand sanitizer will be provided in each classroom, as well as near entrances to the school.

School closure at some point in the school year is a possibility. I encourage parents to plan for a worst-case scenario which would be the implementation of Level 4 plans. I pray that our Governor does not need to close schools again this year.

Page four of the plan outlines our face coverings policy. Masks can be handmade cloth masks or paper surgical masks. Students can wear face shields or the gator masks. Facial coverings should be school appropriate. We will be making Bruin masks available for purchase. There will be more information about that coming soon. Parents should choose the option that best suits the child. Your help in introducing your child to using a mask now will prepare them for wearing one at school. Please practice with them in various lengths of time so when they arrive at school, it will not be their first time using a mask.

Finally, I ask for your patience and support as we continue toward the start of the 2020-2021 school year. These plans are temporary and I know we will get through this together. The Bruin Community always pulls together. We are blessed with amazing and supportive parents and have a team of incredibly passionate and committed educators. We need to continue to be committed to our community and to the overall success of our school. Together, we will make this a great year for our students. I ask that you continue to pray for our students, our staff, and the safety and well being of everyone in our community as we begin the 2020-2021 school year.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Ostertag
Principal