

BRYAN

City Schools

SUPERINTENDENT NEWSLETTER

August 2020

WE ARE #BRYANBUILT



Mark Rairigh,
Superintendent

WELCOME TO THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

What a year 2020 has been! As we have learned over the course of time, each day can bring new elements into our lives that force us to grow, change, and adapt to new circumstances. In most cases this can be a hard feat to overcome. However, in the recent months we have had the opportunity to witness an amazing response to these unprecedented times by our students, staff, parents, and community!

For this reason I am more excited than ever to serve Bryan City Schools!! As I see it, the best is yet to come!!

I would like to thank Bryan City Schools, the Board of Education, and the community for allowing me to serve in this new role. I am humbled and grateful to have the opportunity to work with such amazing people each day. TOGETHER we will navigate these unique times, and through it all we will demonstrate how being #BRYANBUILT will guide us toward success.

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! It will be one to remember!

Thank you!
Mark Rairigh, Superintendent

Back to School Important Dates

August 10 - 7:00pm - Grades K-5 ACE Digital Info Night

August 11 - 11:30am - 7:30pm - Registration Day
**Please review building specific information

August 11 - Drive Thru [Immunization Clinic](#)
**Hosted by Williams County Health Department

August 14 - Teachers Report

August 19 - First Day of School for Students
**Kindergarten - boys only
**CUBergarten - boys only
**Pre-School - boys only

August 20 - Staggered Start for PK and K Girls
**Kindergarten - girls only
**CUBergarten - girls only
**Pre-School - girls only

August 21 - ALL PK and K Students Attend
**Kindergarten - boys and girls attend
**CUBergarten - boys and girls attend
**Pre-School - boys and girls attend

See Virtual Open House Details Below!!

Open House is Turning Virtual

Although we all enjoy the opportunity for our students to meet their teachers for the first time each school year, COVID-19 safety is steering us in a different direction from the traditional open house. Due to the fact that our Open House event at each building brings in a few thousand people at one time it makes it difficult to socially distance within our facilities. For this reason our BCS open house is going to be taking on a different look this school year. With that said, here is the plan:

- On Monday, August 17 each student in the district will receive a “Teacher Spotlight” email from their teachers.
- Each “Teacher Spotlight” will highlight a few fun facts about our teachers, along with some back to school reminders for their classrooms
- Some teachers may also choose to send their students a short video that introduces them to their classrooms and environment they will be joining.

The above plan is designed to give our students the opportunity to learn about our teachers, to remain safe with COVID protocols, and to give each family some final reminders as they prepare for the school year.

Staff Safety Review with the WCHD

On Thursday, August 13 the Williams County Health Department, along with our School Nurse, will be hosting a virtual review of COVID guidance and safety protocols our staff can utilize.

Back to School Information

On Friday, July 24 BCS released it’s Responsible Restart plan. The plan can be reviewed by clicking [HERE](#).

In response to the Governor’s new K-12 mask mandate that was issued on August 4, BCS has updated it’s mask wearing protocol. Please see the updates below.

Masks:

Due to the Governor’s orders ALL Bryan City Schools Students in Grades K-12 are required to wear masks in school and on school transportation. PreSchool students are *strongly recommended and encouraged* to wear face coverings while in school and on school transportation.

Bryan City Schools has purchased a cloth mask with a Bryan logo on it for each student. These masks will be distributed to students at the start of the school year. We understand that students will need more than one mask to wear throughout each school week. For this reason students may wear their own face mask to school as well.

BCS will keep “back-up” masks on each bus, and in the main offices of the buildings. BCS is expecting to receive more masks from a FEMA distribution plan that can also be issued to students as needed.

To view the full mask guidance from the Ohio Children’s Hospital Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics please click [HERE](#).

Online Registration

If you haven’t done so already, please click [HERE](#) to register your student for the 2020-2021 school year! Assistance will also be made available to complete this process at the Registration Day on Tuesday, August 11.

Transportation for 2020-2021

*BCS families will no longer be filling out the Bus Transportation Request form. **All bus requests will now be a part of the Online Student Registration.**

REMINDER: Face Coverings are required for ALL students grades PK-12 riding buses or school transportation.

1. All changes *MUST* go through the Transportation Office from the parent and/or guardian of the student.
2. Requests/Notes to ride a bus to a location other than the assigned stop are NOT accepted.
3. Students will have one primary location for pickup and drop off.
4. Parents may request an alternate site, however busses will not be re-routed.
5. Requested Transportation changes will take effect as follows.
 1. *Two (2) day notice* for locations that are not a current stop.
 2. *One (1) day notice* for locations that are a current stop, including shuttles.
 3. No changes will be made the day of after 12pm.

For more information please check out [ODE's School Transportation FAQ's](#).

****Please know that student pick-up and drop-off times are approximate.****

Remote Learning

In the Williams County "Safe Restart" agreement there was language indicating that remote learning would be put into motion if Williams County was labeled "red" on the State of Ohio Public Health Advisory System. However, after further review of this Advisory System, consultation with the Williams County School Districts, and the Williams County Health Department, we have an updated plan in place should Williams County ever be labeled "red." Here is the updated plan:

If Williams County is classified as "red," the school systems will consult with the Williams County Health Department to determine the best course of action for students, activities, and learning. Information will be reviewed, and decisions will be made within 24 hours of receiving the notification of receiving a "red" status for the county. Dependent upon the data, schools and activities could remain open with the in-person learning option. If a change in status to the level of "red" occurs, schools will remain open until further notice is provided to district stakeholders. However, parents will be notified on any changes to the learning plans as soon as possible. The school systems, in cooperation with the Williams County Health Department, will make the most informed decisions for their individual district. As of this print date, information is released by the Governor's office each Thursday that indicates a county's "alert status." This information will be heavily monitored each week.

If remote learning were to occur, it will have a much different look than it did during the Spring of 2020.

To help you prepare for the Remote Learning process the district has created guidelines that will be followed. PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#) to review these plans.

Chromebook devices are available to all K-12 students (\$50 Technology Protection Plan applies for students in grades K-12 who take them home each day) so they are prepared for in class or remote learning at all times. K-5 students only have the option to take the chromebook home if they enroll in ACE Digital Academy. However, if the district is placed into a Remote Learning circumstance, then all K-12 students will have the ability to take a chromebook device home without paying the \$50 Technology Protection Plan.

Financial Corner

District Finance Updates from our CFO, Kevin Schafer

COVID has not just given us new challenges in how we educate our students, but also in how we pay for that education. In May 2020, as part of his effort to balance the state budget, Governor DeWine announced a cut in state support for local schools. Support for BCS was cut by \$318,000 for the 2019-2020 school year. Ohio has not yet told local schools how much money the state will provide for local education for the 2020-2021 school year.

Normally, BCS receives around \$7.75 million each year from Ohio which accounts for 36% of the school's funding.

Another major source of funding for our district is the school income tax. Historically, this has produced \$3.39 million per year or 16% of the school's funding. The first quarter payment for 2020-2021, was down 25% from the same payment last year. We are hopeful that much of this is related to tax returns being delayed from April 15 to July 15. However, paycheck withholdings were down 13%, which represents a true loss of income in our district. Should this trend continue, it could represent a loss of \$440,000 of funding for the 2020-2021 school year.

BCS is doing its part to help offset the funding reductions. In Fiscal Year 20 and 21 the district has shown a cost savings of approximately \$515,000 through reduced staffing levels. All of the staffing moves were accomplished through attrition.

There is, however, some good news. The Federal government and Ohio working together have supplied BCS with a couple of grants to help offset the expenses of adapting to our current educational challenges. The CARES act created federal funding for local education both directly to local districts and also through the state. Between these two sources, BCS expects to receive up to \$370,000 for our COVID response.

This will allow all students and staff to have the best opportunity to stay current with classwork should an individual experience quarantine restrictions, pro-longed health related absences, or even a rolling closure in which BCS has to implement Remote Learning at a mandated time throughout the school year.

During remote, and regular in-person learning, students and staff will be expected to utilize the technology platforms of Google Classroom (grades 3-12) and Seesaw (grades K-2) to ensure all learning material can be made available online when necessary.

Virtual Learning

Virtual Learning is an option for students at Bryan City Schools.

Virtual learning at Bryan City Schools is offered through a learning platform called ACE Digital Academy. To help educate yourself, and your student, on the virtual ACE Digital Academy learning experience please review the information contained within the link below. After reviewing the information, please fill out this questionnaire by August 14 as you see fit for your student(s).

Link to Virtual Learning Information:
<https://forms.gle/EJz238d3yZsrC3L18>

Here is a video tutorial of how ACE works:
<https://screencast-o-matic.com/watch/cYiijq5gaM>

Lunch for Virtual Students

Students who enroll in the virtual option have the ability to receive a school lunch each day. Students or families must pay in full for these school lunches unless they are participating in the Free or Reduced Lunch program. The "Type A" lunch will be served each day in a "to go" container. These lunches will be available for pick-up between the hours of 12:00pm - 12:30pm on dates school is in session in face-to-face manner. Please drive to the back of the elementary building and utilize the drive thru loop to pick up the lunch. This program is for all K-12 students enrolling in the virtual/online learning through ACE Digital Academy.

BCS Receives New Service Dog

We are happy to announce that the Assistance Dogs for Achieving Independence (ADAI) has provided a new Service Dog to Bryan City Schools! We are excited for everyone to meet Catcher!! What a fun name!! Catcher will be housed by the Elementary Guidance staff, but will be available to all of our PK-12 students throughout the school year. We look forward to our students meeting Catcher!

Safety and Sanitizing Efforts

As previously noted in the BCS Responsible Restart plan, *Bryan City Schools will be transparent with all stakeholders that some level of risk will always be present when children and school district employees occupy school district facilities and transportation services.*

BCS will continue to do our part in cleaning facilities and providing avenues that allow our students and staff to stay safe and follow proper sanitizing efforts. These include:

-Hand Sanitizer will be provided in all classrooms and common spaces.

-Sanitizing wipes will be provided in each classroom. Orders have been placed.

-Plexiglass dividers are being installed at all secretarial desks, at all food service cashier stations, in preschool and Kindergarten classrooms due to “circular” tables, and for special services staff (OT/PT/Speech) who work with students in a capacity that a mask/face covering may need to be removed.

-Masks will be worn by all K-12 students in school facilities and on school transportation

We thank the efforts of our custodial and maintenance crews for installing these safety items and for their daily efforts to clean our facilities when they are in use by our students and staff.

Senior Citizens Pass

Complimentary lifetime passes will be issued to Senior Citizens who are residents of the school district and are sixty (60) years old or older. These lifetime passes are available at the Superintendent’s Office.

This offer does not include reserved seating for football or basketball. To obtain reserved seating for those events, please contact Theresa Kuzmaul at 419-636-4536.

Welcome New Staff

As we enter the 2020-2021 school year we have some new faces that will be joining our BCS Team! They are:

- Chelsea Tappen- Elementary Music
- Brittany Dugan- 4th Grade ELA/Co-Teach
- Rhonda Gibson- School Psychologist
- John Shell- St. Pat’s Intervention Specialist

Be sure to welcome them to our BCS family! They bring many great assets to our district!

Fall Sports/Extra-curriculars

As of this print date, all Ohio schools are still awaiting official confirmation to see if “contact sports” will be allowed to play school vs. school competition. Sweeping the headlines on Friday, August 7 was news that Football will have a shortened season (6 games) and all teams will make the playoffs. We will sort through this new guidance and work to fulfill the best season for our football program. We continue to thank our fall “contact sports” of soccer and football for all of their hard work!!

Meanwhile, “non-contact” sports are in full swing and we wish them the best of luck as they continue to practice and begin competitions!

#BryanBuilt