

BURLINGTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

Mary Ann Bell, *Superintendent of Schools*

710 Jacksonville Road - Hopkins Building, Burlington, NJ 08016

mbell@burltwpsch.org

www.burltwpsch.org

609-387-3955

x2057

September 24, 2020

Dear Burlington Township Families:

I hope this letter finds your family well. As promised in my previous communications, here are additional updates. I want to thank our families for their support during this challenging time. We are working to create as safe an environment as possible as students return based on our schedule.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

It is important for parents and teachers to meet and discuss individual students. We are offering this opportunity during our virtual parent teacher conferences. The teachers will offer families the opportunity to select a timeslot via appointments from google calendar. The details of this information will be sent from the individual buildings.

High School Conference Schedule- Monday, October 5, Tuesday, October 6, Wednesday, October 7 and Thursday, October 8 appointment times from 7:50-8:50 A.M.

Middle School Conference Schedule- Wednesday, October 21 and Wednesday, October 28 afternoon

Fountain Woods School Conference Schedule- Monday, October 19 evening
Wednesday, October 14 and Wednesday, October 21 afternoon

B. Bernice Young School Conference Schedule -Monday, October 26 evening
Tuesday, October 27 and Wednesday, October 28 afternoon

RETURN TO IN PERSON INSTRUCTION

Some students have already begun in-person instruction. We welcomed back 4 year old preschool students in our expanded Fountain Woods classrooms this week. Below are the dates for the return of the next cohort of students to join us in person. All days are four hours based on the schedules published on our website. All schedules include Wednesday as a remote day at this time. If your child is in one of the cohorts below, you will receive a communication prior to the return to in person instruction.

September 29, 2020 - Young School 4 year old preschool students return to 4 days in person

October 5, 2020 - All buildings self-contained students return to 4 days in person

October 5, 2020 - Young School 3 year old preschool students return for 4 hours, 2 days per week

October 15, 2020 - All buildings Thursday-Friday (HF) cohort return for 2 days per week

October 26, 2020 - All buildings Monday-Tuesday (MT) cohort return for 2 days per week (this is earlier than originally planned.)

BUS INFORMATION

Bus information will be provided before the return to in person instruction. Information will not be provided to anyone who selected all remote instruction.

PROCEDURE TO MOVE BACK TO REMOTE LEARNING

I cannot stress this point enough. We are still in the midst of a pandemic. As you may be aware, some schools across the state have been required to close on a temporary basis based on positive cases of COVID-19 identified in the school. Please note, Burlington Township Schools will follow the requirements of the New Jersey Department of Health. If we have 1 positive case, those students and staff identified as close contacts will be required to self-quarantine. If we have 2 positive cases within one building that are unrelated, we will require the building to close for 14 days and everyone to self-quarantine. During these times, we will move all students to remote learning. *Families must be ready for the closure of our buildings and the return to remote learning at any given time.* Please make certain that you have a child care plan in place. If we need to close the buildings, this will also include before and after care, if offered in that building, and all extra and co-curricular activities that are offered in that building.

SAFELY RETURNING AND KEEPING SICK CHILDREN HOME

All students will undergo a health screening, including temperature check, as they enter our buildings. If a student is identified as possibly displaying symptoms of COVID-19, the student will be evaluated by a school nurse and, if needed, will be isolated while waiting for parent pick-up. If a school nurse sends your child home due to displaying COVID symptoms, you will be required to keep your child home for 10 days or until you can provide a note from a medical professional that the symptoms are not COVID-19 related. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL WHEN;

- YOUR CHILD IS DISPLAYING SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19.
- YOUR CHILD HAS [TRAVELLED TO ANY OF THE LOCATIONS OUTSIDE OF NJ IF LISTED](#)
- ANYONE IN YOUR HOME HAS TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

As a reminder, the parents of all children who are expected to return in person will receive a text message and email with a reminder not to send your child to school if sick, if your child has traveled out of NJ to anyplace listed on the travel advisory in the past 14 days or if anyone in your household has tested positive for COVID-19. While these messages may be redundant, we must ensure that we are conveying the importance of keeping everyone safe.

Also, please note that even if we have positive cases and we need to close for in-person instruction, it does not mean that someone did not follow all of our protocols. It is simply the result of the circumstances. Families and staff will NOT be provided with the identities of known positive cases within our schools. The contact tracing will be handled by individuals within our schools who have been trained in these measures and we will work in coordination with the Burlington County Health Department.

If your child or anyone in your household is showing symptoms of COVID-19, please keep your child home. If your child feels well enough, we encourage you to have your child participate in the remote learning for that day. Students who are assigned to an in person cohort may join their class via

Google Meets based on the schedules provided and will be considered present. This is true for students who are displaying other signs of illness that are not otherwise explained.

SUPPORTS FOR FAMILIES

As a reminder, there is a process to obtain a chromebook for your child if you need a device for learning. You may need to run an update on your chromebook if you find your child is having issues. [Please follow these instructions](#). Chromebooks can be picked up at Door #23 at the back of the High School on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. after your order has been placed with the school office.

We are also offering meals for students. Messages are sent every week about the availability of meals. If you are aware of families who need meals, please provide them with the [link to our website](#) where they can place their order.

The District understands that technology and the different applications being used to assist with delivering instruction have been challenging for families. Our staff have created a [website](#) and a manual on the most commonly used applications to assist. This is filled with lots of information and screenshots to assist with trying to provide guidance. We are also working on a student and family helpdesk available during school hours. More information will shared next week.

Safety has always been our top priority in Burlington Township Schools. As we plan to reopen schools in the fall, we will do so with safety first, but we need your help in keeping our staff and other students safe. Please do not send sick children to school! Thank you for your continued support and for being partners in the safety and well being of our students and staff!

Wishing you good health,

Mary Ann Bell

Mary Ann Bell

Superintendent of Schools

Previous Letters to Families:

[Letter to families - July 2, 2020](#)

[Letter to Families - July 20, 2020](#)

[Letter to Families - July 31, 2020](#)

[Letter to Families - August 14, 2020](#)

Other Links:

[WeeKids website for before and aftercare](#)

Wear a Mask (stop the spread of droplets at the source, the nose and mouth!)

Wash your Hands (Practice good hand hygiene)

Wave from six feet (Practice Social Distancing)