



BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

151 STATE STREET, BRISTOL RI 02809

WWW.BWRSD.ORG (401) 253-4000

August 27, 2021

Dear Bristol Warren Families,

We are excited to be opening the 2021-22 school year in person on September 8, 2021. Our teachers and support staff are eager to begin the school year as well. Our focus is to help our students transition seamlessly back into their learning environments. The school year will begin with all Pre-K-12 schedules returning to regular arrival and dismissal times, class schedules, and opportunities for extracurricular activities. [Bus schedules are on our website](#) and will be published in the local newspapers on Sept. 1 & Sept. 2. Please note that the first day of school is **Drop Off Only**; parents are asked to remain in their vehicle to keep things moving so we can bring students into school in a safe and orderly way.

All of our schools will open in the fall with precautions in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19. We are striving to make the student experience at the BWRSD a positive one. Last year the District Administration developed In-Person Health and Safety Protocols in our Back to School Playbook, which we have updated for the 2021-22 school year. The adopted plan is a fluid document that will consider emerging guidance and recommendations from state and local officials and utilize current data surrounding the trajectory of the virus at the local level to inform subsequent decisions. Our [Back to School Playbook](#) is also posted on our website and summarized below.

It was necessary to make a **revision to our [2021-2022 BWRSD calendar](#)**, which is now reflected on our website. The two days scheduled for kindergarten and grades six and nine orientation (September 1 and 2) had been counted as school days in our original calendar. However, the RI Department of Education has indicated that partial attendance days such as those do not count towards our required 180 days of school. As a result, we've had to add two additional days to the school calendar; November 24 and December 23. Also considered was April 15, Good Friday, but since it is a contractual holiday for many of our employees it was not feasible. Otherwise it would require either cutting into the vacation weeks or going into the week of June 20. Consequently, these days, while not ideal, were chosen to keep us at the required 180. I regret any inconvenience this causes.

Free lunch will continue to be provided to all students. However, **it is essential that the Free and Reduced Lunch form be completed and returned ([Application Form-English](#); [Application Form - Spanish](#); [Online Application - English](#))**. This is used in determining the amount of state funding the district receives, so making sure we have an accurate count is highly important. PLEASE complete the free and reduced lunch form available on our [website](#) even if you are not sure if you are eligible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Hicks".

Robert Hicks, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent of Schools

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COVID-19 SCHOOL HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES

- **Required Face Coverings**
 - As you may be aware, Governor McKee issued a mask mandate for K-12 students, staff, and visitors on 8/19/2021. Mask-wearing is an essential and effective prevention strategy to keep students and staff safe. The BWRSD will require masks inside school buildings for all students, staff, and visitors. Those without masks will not be allowed in school buildings.
 - Masks will be required indoors for before and after school and athletics.
 - Masks will be required on school buses regardless of vaccination status.
 - Masks will be provided for those who forget or soil their own.
 - Mask breaks shall be provided to all students at regular intervals.
 - Gaiters and similar coverings are not masks and do not count as a mask. Masks are defined in our Playbook.
- **Symptom Screening:** Parents will be asked to attest only once that they conduct a daily symptom screening and keep sick children at home. It is critical to note that the protocols listed above will be most effective with family and staff partnerships. Please continue to do your part by keeping students home and/or staying home yourself when showing symptoms of illness.
- **Physical Distancing:** This is not required for vaccine eligible students nor for students in stable pods. Since grades K-5 will be in stable pods and grades 7-12 are vaccine eligible, this covers all students except grade 6, where a 3' physical distance will be necessary. Under RIDOH guidance, lunch for students K-6, because they are not vaccine eligible, will still require 3' physical distancing.
- **Testing:** We will continue to conduct symptomatic testing with permission in accordance with guidance (where there is substantial or high transmission) and with permission. Our health forms will be modified to request vaccination status and such will be used to complete required surveillance testing. Parts of our testing protocols still await RIDOH details.
- **Vaccination:** We will promote voluntary vaccination for eligible students and staff and ask parents to share their child's vaccination status with our school nurse so that it may be included in their child's health records.
- **Distance Learning:** Distance Learning (DL) is a complete virtual education, and, depending on the situation, may be either provided directly by the BWRSD such as in the case of the quarantine of an entire class, or through a third party vendor, such as in the case of a medically fragile student who cannot attend school. A return to full in-person learning is the expectation for all students unless DL is required.
 - For those students who have documented disabilities, or medically-based family needs related to COVID that prohibit attending school, we will provide access to a Rhode Island Department of Education approved online learning provider. If you believe this is the case for your child, the process begins with your building principal.

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- **COVID-19 | Quarantine Procedure**
 - Anyone who is within 6' for 15 minutes or more of someone positive for COVID-19 must be quarantined with three exceptions:
 - If you are fully vaccinated (age 12+) and have no symptoms, you will not have to quarantine.
 - If you tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months, are fully recovered, and do not have symptoms, you will not have to quarantine.
 - If a face covering was worn "appropriately and consistently" by you and the person with COVID-19, you will not have to be quarantined.
 - A **K-12 student** exposed to a K-12 student infected with COVID-19 **does not need to quarantine if ALL of the following apply:**
 - **K-12 students:** both the infected person and exposed close contact are K-12 students;
 - **Indoor classroom:** the close contact exposure occurred in an indoor K-12 classroom;
 - **Physical distance:** at least 3 feet of physical distance was maintained at all times during the close contact exposure.
 - **Face masks:** both the exposed (close contact) student and the infected student always wore a face mask during the close contact exposure
 - Students who are close contact will be quarantined for 7 days and return to school on day 8 with a negative test from day 5 or later. Asynchronous online learning (such as Google Classroom and SeeSaw) will be provided to quarantined individual students. Should an entire class be quarantined, distance learning will be provided.
 - The length of isolation for **an infected student or staff:** Isolation is 10 days. You cannot test out of isolation and it is a full ten days. You can return on day 11 as long as you are fever free for 24 hours and feeling better.
 - **Cleaning, Disinfection, and Hand Washing:** A change for this year is a return to a daily cleaning schedule. Disinfection will be in response to the presence of a sick person in accordance with CDC guidance. Hand washing/sanitizing will be done on entry and exit, and before and after lunch.
 - **Ventilation:** Ventilation procedures from last year will be continued, including running HVAC systems, open windows, and retaining HEPA filters. Cleaning checklists will be used.
 - **Visitors:** Visitors will be limited and required to follow school requirements. Meetings will be virtual where possible and accommodations provided as needed. Large group indoor gatherings will be avoided. Outside groups that use buildings will be required to follow school protocols.
 - **Transportation:** As per federal regulations masks are required on all busses. Busses may run at full capacity this year. Our bus schedules will be in local papers September 1 and 2 and are available on our [website](#).

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