

Belmont Blog #2 – Parent/Community Re-Opening Meeting

August 6, 2020

On Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. on the High School football field, we will be holding a parent/community meeting on our Re-Opening Plan. I hope that you will be able to join us, so that you can learn about the specifics of our plan and have all of your questions answered. If you have the time, I included a copy of the plan on my email to all staff and parents on Wednesday, August 5.

As you are thinking about the start of the school year, which is something that I think many people are thinking about now. I wanted to give you a brief summary of what we are planning for the Belmont Community School District. Our plan has two educational options:

- Parents can choose to send their children to school for an in-person option; or
- Parents can choose a remote learning option.

Which option you choose will depend upon your individual and family circumstances. We want you to look carefully at both options and select the one that is best for you and your family.

If you choose the in-person option, your child will meet with his/her teacher(s) in basically the same way that they would on a normal year. However, there will be some daily changes that you should be aware of with this choice.

- Students will not be allowed to come into the building until 7:45 a.m. Once students report to school they will go to an assigned area, probably the gymnasium, commons or library. Once at the assigned area, students will have their temperature taken by a staff member and sent directly to their classroom. If the student has a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or greater they will go to a special designated area and the parents will be called to pick up their child.
- Once students are in their classroom, we will attempt to the best of our ability to have students socially distanced from each other. Whenever possible, certain classes like physical education will be held outdoors to allow for greater social distancing and more air circulation.
- All staff and students will be required to wear a face-covering (mask or face shield) when they are in the building. Individuals will be asked to wear a face-covering outside of the building, if social distancing cannot be maintained. **If for whatever reason you do not want to wear a mask then please select the remote learning option.** Wearing a mask will be required of everyone entering the building and individuals who do not want to wear a mask will not be allowed to enter. This is for the safety of our staff and students.
- Our breakfast and lunch program will serve food in “to-go” bags. Elementary students will be eating their meals in the classroom and Junior/Senior High School students will be eating their meals in the cafeteria, commons and possibly gymnasium.
- Until COVID-19 is under control, we will not be using volunteers to assist with reading activities, etc.
- Classroom supplies will be given to each individual student and sharing of materials will not be permitted.

- The end of the school day will be 3:20 p.m. for the elementary students and 3:30 p.m. for the Junior/Senior High School students. At the end of day, students will have a staggered release to reduce the amount of personal contact. For example, bus students may be released first, followed by students that are being picked up their parents and finally, students who will be walking home.

If you choose the remote learning option, you will be receiving your instruction from home or some other designated area that is outside of the school building. Remote learning will have different expectations than the expectations that students had this past spring, when Districts were thrust into designing remote learning options for all students. Some of the major differences are as follows:

- Remote learning will mirror in-person learning to the best of our ability.
- Attendance will be taken each class period by the instructor; therefore, your remote learning class time will be the same as individuals that select the in-person option.
- Teachers will be using Zoom or Google Meet as the primary method of instruction. This method will allow remote learning students to hear and see their teacher, but not to the same extent that you would be able to see and hear in an in-person setting.
- Students that select remote learning will be required to do the same assignments and assessments as those students who take the in-person option. Some projects may be varied or modified because remote learning students may not have access to the same tools and resources as those students who have selected the in-person option. Chromebooks will be provided to all students in grades 2-12.
- If a remote learner has a question, these questions will be addressed to the teacher using their District email address. Teachers will check and respond to these emails during their normal school hours.

One important difference between the start of this year and last spring is that the District will not allow any social promotion between grade levels or subjects. All students regardless of the option chosen will be expected to complete all their classroom work and assessments. Students will receive the grade they have earned based on their classroom work and assessments.

At this point, the District will still be having co-curricular programs and all students regardless of their learning option will be allowed to participate. However, practices and competitions may look different than normal based on the co-curricular activity. The District is currently working on a safe way to allow spectators to view the co-curricular activities and more information will be provided on this topic in the near future. At this point, the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) has pushed back the start time of several fall sports and schools have been adjusting their schedules accordingly.

There are many other details that are discussed in our re-opening plan that I have not covered in this brief summary. However, I wanted to give you a short synopsis of the plan, so that you could start thinking about questions that you might want to ask on Wednesday, August 12 at our Parent/Community meeting. I can also be contacted at wayne.anderson@belmont.k12.wi.us. This will be a challenging year, but I know that we will get through this together as a team to provide the best and safest options for everyone.