



TOWN OF BEDFORD
97 MCMAHON ROAD
BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS 01730

Superintendent Update

If you need this document translated, please call your child's school principal - Si necesita este documento traducido, por favor comuníquese con la escuela de su hijo - Se você precisa este documento traduzido, entre em contato com a escola do seu filho - Si vous avez besoin de traduire ce document, s'il vous plaît contacter l'école de votre enfant - 如果你需要这份文件翻译，请联系您的孩子的学校 - إذا كنت تحتاج /تحتاجين إلى ترجمة هذه ، الوثيقة إلى اللغة العربية يرجى الاتصال بمدرسة طفلك/طفلاتك

Friday, August 28, 2020

Hello Bedford School Community,

Thank you for your continued patience as we work to reopen school. I wanted to let you know that our Cooperative Teams have completed their work on our reopening plan and that plan will be made public today. The Cooperative Teams did an incredible job working out all of the myriad of interconnected details with the health and safety of all students, faculty, and staff always front and center in their minds. We believe that the plans provide for the academic engagement of students while supporting students' social and emotional well-being, maintaining equity as a core belief, creating welcoming learning environments, and enabling students and teachers to build strong relationships. The plan which is linked on the Bedford Public Schools School Reopening web page at [Reopening Plans Information](#) will be presented to the school committee at their next meeting on Monday, August 31, 2020.

Hybrid/Remote Final Decision

In order to finalize our student and teacher schedules we are asking that any parent who wants to change their child's current model to please contact your school's registrar by the end of the day on Monday, August 31, 2020. If your child will remain in their current model, there is no action required of you at this time.

Davis - Tami Heywood: tami_heywood@bedfordps.org

Lane - Karen Lua: karen_lua@bedfordps.org

JGMS - Yvonne Cormier: yvonne_cormier@bedfordps.org

BHS - Nancy Powell: nancy_powell@bedfordps.org

DESE Guidance

There was no new guidance from DESE this week, but they did add an FAQ document to their website <http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/> On this page you will find all of the guidance documents that have come out from DESE.

Massachusetts and Bedford COVID-19 Information

We continue to use Governor Baker's enhanced community data map which tracks COVID-19 cases and gives a colored rating from clear through red. This information is also being utilized by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to alert school communities about the risk in their particular city or town. That information can be found at [MA.GOV Covid Dashboard](#) as part of the COVID Dashboard information. Here in Bedford we are fortunate to receive weekly updates from Town Manager Sarah Stanton. This week's update can be found at [Bedford August 27, 2020 COVID Information](#)

“Privilege Pods”

As a district we want to make it clear that we are concerned about the establishment of private “privilege pods” or educational groups that create inequalities among our students. These pods are a symptom of the structural differences that exist in our educational system and structural issues within our society including the lack of affordable child care. The current pandemic has exacerbated these issues and has in many cases increased the financial burden on families. As a school district we are committed to closing the opportunity gap for all of our students and hope that our families understand that creating and participating in these pods may have a detrimental effect on our students.

Start of the School Year

Just a reminder that the school year will begin for educators on August 31, 2020 and that students will begin the year with a remote learning day on Wednesday, September 16, 2020, Cohort A will have their first day of in-person instruction on Thursday, September 17, 2020, and Cohort B will have their first day of in-person instruction on Friday, September 18, 2020

Next Steps

As the Cooperative Teams finalized their work to detail the plans of each school we have been reconciling any changes that may impact the contract between the BEA and BPS. This important step is continuing and I am excited to report that our cooperative efforts to reopen schools are continuing.

Finally, I hope that everyone enjoys their last few days of summer. I am looking forward to seeing the teachers next week and the students in mid-September.

Thank you for your patience, your participation, and your continued commitment to our schools.

Wishing you continued health,

Sincerely,

Philip Conrad
Superintendent