

Braggs Public Schools: Return to Learn 2.0

Updated 6.22.2021

Braggs Public Schools had a successful "Return to Learn" in a traditional in-person format during the 2020-2021 school year. Braggs Public Schools will remain open for in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year. We want ALL of our students to remain "Wildcats" and to learn from our Braggs teaching staff. We plan for each student enrolled to participate in traditional in-person instruction unless they have completed their application and are approved to participate in the Braggs Virtual Program.

Braggs Public Schools will continue to monitor community health and adjust this plan accordingly. As we move through these unique times, we appreciate your understanding, cooperation and support of students, staff, and families.

General Back to School Information:

First day of school for students: Tuesday, August 10, 2021

Arrival Time for Students: No earlier than 7:45

Elementary start and dismissal time: 8:00/3:50

Middle School start and dismissal time: 8:00/3:50

High School start and dismissal time: 8:00/3:50

Our administration team will continue to monitor the madness issued by the state and federal agencies and will respond accordingly as we plan for the new school year.

Return to Learn Part 1:

General Reopening Guidelines For Families

Braggs Public Schools is dedicated to providing quality educational opportunities which are aligned with Oklahoma Academic Standards for PK-12 students. We at BPS are committed to high expectations, academic achievement, quality extracurricular activities, and community involvement.

We will be returning to school in a traditional manner for K-12 beginning on August 10th. We will incorporate multiple on campus distance learning days to prepare students and staff in the event we have another long term shut down due to COVID infections in the state or the community. Safely meeting our goal and returning to a normal school environment will require everyone to work together.

While we expect most, if not all, students to return as traditional, on campus enrollees, a small number of online spots may be available for extreme cases. Like last year, this year's plan involves online students using Edgenuity, Edmentum, Mobymax, or another standalone product. Students forced to utilize the Braggs Virtual Program can still opt to participate in some on-campus athletics and other extracurricular activities.

Braggs Public School intends to consider guidelines and other information from the Health Department and the CDC, and possibly other sources. This information and these guidelines may form policies, practices, or rules related to PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) which may include, but are not limited to, masks, face shields, temperature screenings, social distancing, etc. Our staff will monitor reportable illnesses. Oklahoma Health Department guidance will be utilized for quarantine. BPS will follow county and state mandates. Requirements and recommendations are subject to change.

Braggs Public Schools asks for the help of parents and guardians regarding the health of their children. We request that parents check their child's temperature daily. If they have a temperature, parents should keep them home and notify the school. Temperature checks may be conducted at school, based on the recommendations applicable to schools. In case a student is ill, we ask that

parents and guardians provide a good contact number and promptly inform the school of any contact information changes.

The social-emotional well-being of our students is very important in BPS. Our counselor and mental health services will be prepared and available to help our students and families.

WPS has increased its cleaning and preparation of facilities in an effort to protect our staff and students. Frequent hand-washing and other healthy protocols will continue to be practiced. All efforts have been made to have hand sanitizer and hand sanitizer stations available. Any time BPS receives notification of a positive COVID case on campus, the area will be thoroughly cleaned.

As we start the 2021-2022 school year, we ask for your patience and understanding as we work through the best practices. Our policies and procedures will remain flexible as we adjust to new information.

We will be providing a device (Electronic Devices) to every student, depending on their grade level.

Braggs Learning Options:

Option 1- Traditional In-Person Learning PK-12

- Teachers will provide face to face instruction.
- Students will attend class in person, Monday – Thursday. In the event school is cancelled due to COVID-19, students will be provided instruction through the platform particular to their grade level.
- Special Education/504 accommodations will be provided per plan; however, this may look different this school year. If you have questions about your child's services, please contact the Special Education Director at 918-487-5265.

Note - Distance Learning will be put in place for students who are enrolled in the traditional model, (option 1) if we need to close the school building, or if a student or students are quarantined.

Option 2 - Virtual Learning

Note: If you wish to discuss this option, please contact the building site office by 3:00 p.m. on 7-30-21.

- 100% at home virtual learning.
- Provided by a vendor, not necessarily a BraggsPublic Schools teacher. We will provide a device for every PK-12 student.
- In-person, participation in extracurricular activities, such as fine arts, and athletics, may be available by request made in writing. Transportation will not be provided. Please contact your school site principal for questions or concerns.
- Each student will be required to log on to their "Virtual Learning" plan in accordance with Edgenuity or Edmentum's policies, and/or the policies of Braggs Public Schools.
- Some students may find that learning through Edgenuity or Edmentum is more difficult and/or more time consuming than learning in a traditional classroom.

Lunch will be provided for all options. However, those learning under the Virtual Option will be by arrangement. Information regarding when and where lunches will be picked up will be determined at a later date.

Anticipated Questions:

What if a positive COVID-19 case or cases surface at school?

Depending on how many cases and what sites are affected, shut down and response will vary. We will honor privacy regulations while still notifying families in a timely manner.

How will communication be shared?

BPS will deliver communication through emails, text, and phone directly to parents and students. **Parent and student contact information MUST BE ACCURATE!** Each student will be provided a google email account. The district will utilize the REMIND APP and our Facebook page to streamline communication between the athletics, activities, classrooms and our families. Our district website will be updated regularly (www.braggsschool.com). We are committed to strong communication and responsive action. If you need assistance and cannot reach your site, please reach out to Superintendent John Pinkston at jpinkston@braggsschool.com

What about Grades & Attendance?

Students will receive instruction that is aligned to state standards. Grades will be taken regularly, and progress will be monitored for Academic Growth. Students will be counted absent if not in attendance. To be in attendance, a student must be in class or participating remotely with school permission. This includes students enrolled virtually.

What is Distance Learning?

Distance Learning, gives learners who aren't in a physical location for in-person education, access to online instructional materials. Remote learning provides an opportunity for students and teachers to remain connected and engaged with the content while working from their homes.

What is Virtual Learning?

A **Virtual Learning** Program means the student takes all of his/her courses in a virtual setting away from the school. A BPS teacher directs the instruction. Tutoring, assistance, and assessments will be provided, but no classes require regular physical attendance. The Virtual Learning option is a minimum of a one-semester commitment. Virtual learning is offered through one of our online platforms mentioned previously. There is an application process, and program acceptance is required. Some students may find that Virtual is more difficult and/or more time consuming than learning in a traditional classroom.

Do I have to declare which enrollment pathway I want my child(ren) to participate in?

No, all students will participate in traditional in-person learning unless the virtual application process is completed and finalized.

How do I enroll my student in virtual learning?

If interested in the virtual option, an application must be completed and finalized. The appropriateness of these options for individuals will be determined through the application process. For a virtual application, contact the building principal.

What is Google Classroom?

Google Classroom is a learning management system/portal where students will access their assignments, communication, and grades. The system streamlines all the digital tools and contents that teachers and students use for a more straightforward, more connected learning experience.

Will busses run the regular routes?

Busses will run the regular route. Students will be required to adhere to a seating chart provided by the bus driver. There is a possibility the district may have to cancel bus routes with little notice if we face driver shortages due to COVID-19 infections or quarantine policies.

What transportation will be offered for students who choose the virtual learning pathway?

None –BPS transportation will only be offered during the regular a.m. and p.m. routes for in- person students.

Will all athletics, electives, and fine arts classes continue to be offered at all current levels, and will there be any restrictions?

Depending on the level of community spread, all athletics and activities will continue as planned with extra measures taken to ensure the safety of students and staff. Additional measures may be implemented as needed. Procedures for Athletics and other Extracurricular Activities will follow recommendations and guidelines provided by the Oklahoma Secondary Activities Association. Specific information about practices, events, and precautions will be distributed by activities coach/sponsor and the district athletic director.

Will the school district calendar change during the pandemic?

It is our goal for the calendar dates to stay the same; however, the district may schedule remote learning days within the school dates that already exist.

Will the cafeteria be open?

Yes, our cafeteria will remain open and we will take different measures at each site to promote social distancing. Social distancing will be implemented in lines, serving areas, and seating where and when possible. We will limit the number of students in the cafeteria at a given time when possible. Having two seating areas and serving lines is helpful and will aid in this process.

Why will temperatures not be taken upon entering the school building?

Entering the school building is not the first contact for many students. A student's first contact may be at the bus stops, early morning activities, carpools, before school daycare, parking lots, etc. Temperatures can be an indicator of a variety of illnesses and are not necessarily the first indicator of COVID. BPS has always asked that students remain home if they have a fever of 100 or higher. We need our parents to partner with us to keep all children and staff safe by self-regulating symptoms and temperature checks. We do have touchless digital thermometers and will take suspected staff and student temperatures and act accordingly.

When masks are in the "recommendation" phase, will there be times our student(s) would be "required" to wear a mask?

YES – Depending on the level of community spread, our schools may implement Mask Zones and Mask Free Zones. There may be individual students or staff members who are considered in the vulnerable population. The teacher or school site may ask the students in a particular location to wear masks to allow that student or staff member the ability to come to school and learn/teach as well as keep that student or staff member as safe as possible. We ask that all staff and students bring a mask daily. We will have masks available for those who need one.

Will parents be able to attend meetings and meet the teacher?

We intend to have our Wildcat Welcome this year. Dates, procedures and more information will be released at a later date. We will continue to encourage teachers to reach out to their students, by email, Facebook videos' etc... Parents will not be allowed to walk students to their classrooms on the first day of school. We will have staff supporting students and helping them find their way. We feel it's important for Pre-K and Kindergarten parents to be a support for their students on the first day of school, so we will make arrangements for them. Details to be posted for the Kindergarten and Pre-K students/parents at a later

date. Exceptions for parent visits will be made by the principal or director, and may include IEP meetings, conferences, etc.

What about classroom parties?

Classroom parties will not be open to parents. Items for the party will be sent with students or delivered to the school. Items for classroom parties must be pre-packaged/store bought.

What kind of precautions is the school taking to clean and disinfect?

The following actions will be taken to help reduce the chance of COVID-19 spread.

- Hand sanitizer, encourage hand washing and disinfectant spray in each room.
- Restriction of non-essential visitors.

Additional practices to be implemented:

- We are requesting that students use their own school supplies and share as little as possible.
- **Elementary Morning Drop Off/Pick Up:** Morning drop off for elementary students will begin no earlier than 7:45. Students who are dropped off prior to this time will be unsupervised. Students arriving prior to 7:45 am will not be admitted to the buildings. Elementary pick up will begin at 3:50 in the car pick up line. Parents are to stay in their vehicles while students are being loaded.
- **MS/HS Drop Off/Pick Up:** Morning drop off for MS/HS students will begin no earlier than 7:45. Students who are dropped off prior to this time will be unsupervised. Students arriving prior to 7:45 am will not be admitted to the buildings. MS dismissal pick up will begin at 3:50. HS dismissal pick up will begin at 3:50. Parents are to stay in their vehicles while students are being

dismissed and loaded into vehicles. **MS students' first bell will ring at 8:00, tardy bell will ring at 8:00. HS students' first bell will ring at 8:00, tardy bell will ring at 8:05.**

- We have rearranged schedules at all levels to allow for lower class sizes. Our elementary class sizes are averaging 12, and our secondary classes are averaging 10.
- Elementary Specials will be adjusted to reduce numbers and allow for social distancing.
- Routines and Procedures will be added as needs arise.

Again, we want to thank you in advance for your patience and understanding. Our main concern is the safety and health of our students, staff, and community. We welcome any suggestions you might have; it is important we work as a team to get through this challenging time. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact your child's school site at 918-487-5265.

Return to LEARN Plan 2.0 Part 2: Our Safe Return with CDC Guidance

Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks: Properly fitted masks covering the mouth and nose will be implemented in situations where students are not able to social distance during times of orange or red alert according to the State Department of Education COVID map.

Modifying Facilities for Social Distancing: Social distancing is stressed throughout the Braggs School District. In classrooms, students are seated in ways to minimize exposure, and cohorts travel the hallways in their groups.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette: Students are trained and reminded in the classroom about the health benefits of proper and frequent handwashing

as well as respiratory etiquette of covering the mouth during coughs and sneezes. Hand sanitizer is available in classrooms, offices, cafeteria, and anywhere that students or patrons may pass.

Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities including Improving Ventilation:

Braggs Public Schools uses industrial misting and fogging equipment to sanitize classrooms, buses, and outdoor seating.

Contact Tracing Combined with Isolation and Quarantine, Collaborating with State, Local, and Tribal Health Departments:

The Superintendent has attended training zoom calls with the Oklahoma State Health Department, sometimes weekly, to be informed on the status of infections, testing, vaccines, and CDC guidance for prevention habits, isolation, and quarantine in order to keep our students and staff as safe as possible and to maintain in-person learning for most Braggs students. Students and staff who are fully vaccinated are not required to quarantine if they are traced to a positive exposure.

Diagnostic/Screening Testing: BPS works in close collaboration with the Muskogee County Health Department and the Cherokee Nation who also offer COVID support to our employees for screening and for vaccinations.

Vaccination Efforts for School Communities: The Oklahoma State Department of Health provided Braggs Public Schools staff and other educators the opportunity to receive vaccinations in February and March. They also provided high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to receive vaccinations (with parent permission) in May. We have on-going collaboration with both the Muskogee County Health Department and the Cherokee Nation for COVID support.

Appropriate accommodations for students with Disabilities with Respect for Health and Safety Policies:

At times when school is moved to remote learning due to COVID, students with disabilities will be offered the option to learn in person in classrooms that have been deep cleaned and sanitized. ESSER COVID Relief funds have been used to purchase adaptive technology for students with

disabilities to use when they are required to engage in remote learning due to quarantine, deep cleaning, or inclement weather.

Elementary School: 8:00-3:50

- Arrival: No earlier than 7:45
- Dismissal: 3:50

Middle School: 8:00-3:50

- Arrival: No earlier than 7:45
- Dismissal: 3:50

High School: 8:00-3:50

- Arrival: No earlier than 7:45
- Dismissal: 3:50