

Brush Creek Elementary School



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Dear Brush Creek Elementary School Students and Families,

I want to thank you for all your help and support as we started the 2020-2021 school year! Although this year looks very different from any in BCES history, we are so thankful for you and your families! It was so good to have students back in the building during Week 1 and we are so excited to have them to return to the building this week. If any family needs assistance with school supplies, food delivery, support with any resources-please contact Shea Reed (Social Worker) or Kelsey Adams (School Counselor) or Kristin Dillon (Principal) at 649-1547. You are welcome and encouraged to reach out to Ms. Dillon or Mrs. Bishop if you have questions or concerns. We want to stay connected and realize that communication is critical-especially during this time.

We have worked hard this summer to ensure our campus is safe and ready for our Bears to return to the building. Safety is always our first priority at Brush Creek and this year is no exception. In addition to our Safe Schools protocols, we have enhanced cleaning throughout the campus to comply with CDC and NCDHHS guidelines that enable our school building to be open during the pandemic. Our beginning of year health inspection produced a 100% A+ Rating. Although students are not eating breakfast or lunch in our cafeteria, our staff earned an A inspection in our food preparation and storage! We are proud to say that our building IS clean and safe!

Right now, we are operating under Re-Opening Plan B. This means that our building and our buses are operating at half capacity. We have amended our daily schedule to allow time for the supervision and cleaning necessary to ensure our students (ages 5-11) stay socially distanced throughout the school day and have opportunities for hand washing and surface cleaning. Our classrooms have 10 or less students in each classroom on A Days and B Days. Our normal protocols include encouraging students to work together-in class discussions, completing activities and as they learn and play together. We are adapting and learning new ways of connecting and collaborating—socially distanced.

Daily temperature and symptom screenings are required of all students and staff-anyone entering our building. Staff are not allowed to work if they have a fever 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or have the following symptoms: fever, new cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell, or if required to quarantine by the health department. All people in the building are required to wear face coverings. We have increased supervision throughout our building during student arrival and dismissal. Staff are stationed throughout the building to ensure students know where to go and stay socially distanced as they move through the building. This is especially challenging with our youngest children. Our professional, kind, compassionate, and caring staff are able to make students feel safe, secure and loved while on campus.

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Brush Creek Elementary School's commitment to excellence continues this year! In September, BCES is one of nine schools that will be named a National Blue Ribbon School. High performing schools with high growth across the nation are nominated for this honor each year. This is the second time in BCES history that we have been named a National Blue Ribbon School. BCES exceeded growth and performed in the Top 10% of the state in the 2018-19 school year . Our fifth graders scored the highest ELA, Math AND Science EOG test scores in the state. Although testing was waived for 2019-20 school year, our students demonstrated resilience, perseverance and determination as we learned new ways of teaching and learning. We are committed to excellence whether teaching face to face or remotely.

We are sending home a revised Madison County Schools calendar. Our building is currently opening at 7:40. Our staff arrive to school at 7:30 and we need all hands on deck to make our morning arrival and afternoon dismissal run smoothly. It takes about 45 minutes to get all students screened and in the building. This includes bus and car riders. Students get breakfast, use the restroom and are in the classroom ready to begin instruction at 8:15. Teachers are in the classroom, greeting students, taking attendance, completing the lunch count, answering questions and starting students on morning work and activities.

Students attend school 2 days face to face and 3 days remotely each week. When students are in the building, they comply with all health and safety protocols required by NCDHHS. Teachers have created daily schedules that include ELA, Math and Science instruction. In addition, 30 minutes of Reading and Math intervention or enrichment and 30 minutes of recess is included daily. Students have access to Music, Art, PE and Counseling lessons each week. When working remotely, students are required to demonstrate completion of activities, attend Zoom meetings, and/or submit completed work to be counted in attendance on remote learning days. If the student does NOT complete and submit work OR communicate with the teacher, they will be counted absent and grades could be impacted.

We will start Beginning of Year assessments this week with our Kindergarten-Fourth Grade students. This information is valuable in helping us determine where your child is and what we need to do to ensure they make as much growth as possible this school year. Teachers will be reaching out to share your child's results with you once all testing is complete.

We realize that all our families have challenges in making this schedule work. Please reach out to your child's classroom teacher or Ms. Dillon at 649-1547 ext. 50110 or (828) 206-0009 if you have questions about scheduling or expectations for your child on remote learning days. We are here to help each one of our students be successful!

Best Wishes for a Wonderful School Year,

Kristin Dillon, Principal

Robin Bishop, Instructional Coach