

Bear Families,

I want to try to explain the options for your child with more detail.

You can choose from 2 options

1. **Return to the School Building**-Your child will be assigned to a classroom teacher and will follow the Plan A, B or C that the school is required to implement.
2. **Virtual Learning Option**-We have 2 teachers (one K-2 and one 3-5) that will be assigned to our Virtual Learners. They will not be teaching “live lessons” but they will be a contact for families as we learn this new model. Students will use the Calvert Homeschooling Program.

If you choose to **RETURN TO THE BUILDING OPTION** that means...

School will move between Plan A, Plan B, or Plan C depending on mandates from Governor Cooper or the MCS Board based on safety guidelines.

Plan A: All students can return to the building every day and we will be on a regular schedule 8am-3pm. We still have health safety precautions in place-screening before entering the building and enhanced cleaning protocols but this plan is the closest to “regular school”. At this time, students will wear face coverings in Plan A.

Plan B: This is a blended option. That means both face to face instruction and remote learning instruction. Daily schedule is 9-2. We can only have 12 students in a classroom on any given day. Our average class size is 18-20 students per class. Our daily scheduling depends on how many students we are serving with this option. All students and staff must wear face coverings and be screened before entering the building, only students and staff in the building, minimizing movement through the building and keeping student groups from blending as much as possible. We are still working through the logistics of this.

Plan C: When we implement Plan C, it will be remote instruction for all kids. Our staff will work from our building and support students virtually. Students will use devices to access instruction using a program called SeeSaw. Our classroom teachers will be using this to provide daily instruction, feedback and support to the students on their class lists. Right now our district has ordered devices for K-5 kids. Our goal is a device for every child. The ability to get enough computers in our hands by August 17th is a challenge. We are working diligently to plan instruction for our students.

If you choose the **VIRTUAL LEARNING OPTION** that means...

You need to complete the application on the MCS and Brush Creek Elementary website. When you click on the link, you will see guidelines for the program. At the bottom of the page, there is another link. When you click on this link, you will see the application. Once this is completed, your child will be a Virtual Learner for the first semester (Aug.-Dec. 2020). In January, if you want your child to return to the building, they can. If you decided to continue with the Virtual Learning Option, you can.

Our Virtual Learners will use the Calvert Homeschooling Program. The district will purchase subscriptions based on the number of families interested in this option. Students will need a device and internet access to participate in this option. If you do not have a device, we will provide one for your child. If you do not have internet access but have cell phone service, we will provide a Hot Spot. If the Hot Spot does not improve your internet access, you will need to bring your child to a location with free wifi (all MCS school parking lots and central office have free access) to be able to log in to the program and complete the activities.

Students will need to complete the reading, math, science and social studies activities daily. This will take 3-4 hours depending on grade level. Completion of activities is how we will track attendance and collect grades for our Virtual Learners. At Brush Creek we will have one teacher (Mrs. Jordan McClellan) assigned to be the contact for our K-2 Virtual Learners and one teacher (Mrs. Joy Allen) assigned to be the contact for our 3-5 Virtual Learners. These teachers won't be "teaching live lessons" but they will provide support for families, students and our grade level staff, as we figure out this new learning model.

If your child is NOT returning to the building, they will not need the school supplies.

What Next?

The registration for the Virtual Learning Option closes next Friday, August 7th. We have many final decisions that we will complete once we know exactly how many students are returning to our building.

All Brush Creek Bear families will be contacted through phone call the Week of August 10-14 by either Mrs. McClellan or Mrs. Allen (if you are a Virtual Learner) OR your child's classroom teacher (if you are returning to the building). Our EC teachers will be reaching out to the students they serve as well. We will be doing phone contact rather than mailing letters this year. This is to provide you with more personal service and give you the opportunity to ask questions or share concerns. We will be calling based on the phone numbers we have in Powerschool. If your number has changed, please call our office @ 649-1547 and update your number so our staff can contact you before school starts.

We are reviewing options for a "Meet Your Teacher" event. We cannot do our traditional beginning of the year events but we want to have time for students and teachers to connect.

Changes

As of today, 8/1/20, we will be opening school for the 2020-21 school year on Monday, August 17th at 9AM under Plan B requirements. Our daily schedule will be 9-2. Our building will open at 8:15. We will dismiss at 2pm.

We will posting the details of our BCES Re-Opening Plan for Plan A, B and C this week.

We will update our website, Facebook page (Brush Creek Bears), and Dojo page as new information is decided.

We will be moving from using Class Dojo (as a schoolwide communication tool) to SeeSaw. This change will start August 17th and we will provide details on how to access this platform and how you can communicate with teachers and Ms. Dillon from your cell phone, laptop, ipad or other device.

Our office is open from 8-3 Monday-Friday. You can 649-1547 or email Ms. Dillon directly at kdillon@madisonk12.net if you have questions.

I realize this is a very difficult and personal decision for each family. Unfortunately, all the options we currently have are nowhere near what "normal school" looks like at BCES. You are welcome to call me anytime. All these details are difficult to explain without being able to talk directly to folks. We are working diligently to get re-opening plans finalized, if I am not available when you call, I will return your call.

Lastly, I want Bear families to know that all Brush Creek Elementary Staff love and miss our Bears deeply. Our goal and mission to care for our students and families. We worry about everyone during this difficult and unprecedented time. We are learning to adapt to the situation and know we will have things that must be adjusted and tweaked as we try to have our bear family return to the building we love.