



BETHANY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

REOPEN BCS PLAN - 2020

BASED ON GUIDANCE FROM THE CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



We inspire and empower children to thrive
in the world of tomorrow.

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A Message from Bethany Public School Administration

Dear Bethany Community,

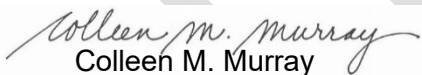
Our administrators share a common interest in both movies and baseball, and hold a special place in our hearts for one of the classics, Field of Dreams. We agree that we find nostalgic comfort listening to Terrance Mann, played by James Earl Jones, reflect on his love for baseball and the need to keep the field and dream alive. He reminds us, "America has rolled by like an army of steamrollers. It has been erased like a blackboard, rebuilt, and erased again, but baseball has stood the test of time." We would argue the same is true of education and our school, Bethany Community School, in particular.

Like baseball, the education of children in Bethany has a long history. The first school shared space with the Congregational Church in 1750. In 1775, the schoolhouse was moved to Bethany Green. In 1834, a one-room schoolhouse, Center School, was built and moved multiple times before it closed its doors in 1934. The first Bethany Community School, which is now Town Hall, was built in 1934 and went through many changes until the current Bethany Community School was built in 1970, which has been updated, repurposed, and added on to since then. Schools have endured countless hardships and challenges over the years and remain a cornerstone of our American society. Center School now stands on our campus as a reminder to where we have been, and how far we have come in that time.

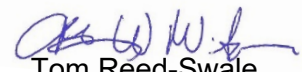
Our educational system faces a new challenge now, one that asks us to erase what we have known and rewrite the ways in which we teach and learn. As we plan for a new future, we look to our past. What is important to us? It's in our name, "Community." We are Bethany "Community" School. We must be flexible and adapt to the present needs of our students, teachers, and families.

As we start the school year in the Fall, whatever challenges and obstacles we face, we remain at our core, a community. It will not be easy. It will not be without setbacks. But when the dust settles, our school will stand the test of time. Just like in years past, if we build it, they will come. We will be here, however we can, to invite your children to learn, laugh and grow in our Bethany Community School.

Sincerely,


Colleen M. Murray
Superintendent


Kai Byrd
Director of Special Services, Curriculum
and Instruction


Tom Reed-Swale
Principal



In planning for the reopening of the Bethany Public School District (District), it has been essential to envision the safest environment and the highest quality instruction for our school community. Based on guidelines provided to school districts on June 29, 2020 from the Connecticut State Department of Education and the State of Connecticut, the Bethany Public School District is currently planning for a “full, safe, and appropriate” reopening of our school in the Fall of 2020.

A “full” reopening refers to the desire to have all students and all staff return in the fall for a full-length traditional day of school with necessary modifications given the pandemic. Even with a “full” reopening, parents/guardians should note the options available to families detailed on page 14.

A “safe” reopening refers to adherence to expectations and guidelines from the State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health (DPH), Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), School Medical Advisor, Dr. Namita Wijesekera, Quinnipiac Valley Health District (QVHD), and other sources that will be in place to ensure that the school’s environment supports learning during this time of COVID-19.

An “appropriate” reopening refers to high standards of academic achievement along with social and emotional support that is expected to be in place for all students.

A central belief in reopening is that the children of Bethany need to be connected in person once again to our school program led in person by their teachers and staff. As the school reopens in the Fall, the plan is to phase in all aspects of school life in the safest and most appropriate manner.

The Bethany Board of Education (Board) and the Superintendent have charged the District Reopening Committee with the task of reviewing all guidelines and recommendations from the State of Connecticut to develop a plan for the school to safely and responsibly open its doors in the Fall. The District Reopening Committee created nine subcommittees including Health & Wellness, Facilities, Technology, Social/Emotional Growth, Food Service, Transportation, Operations & Policy, Instruction, and Professional Development charged with developing school-wide guidelines and protocols. Subcommittees are composed of certified and non-certified staff. In addition, ad hoc consultants serve on several of the subcommittees to provide further guidance. As the District values the contributions and suggestions of parents, caregivers, families, and students in the decision-making process, and in order to build trust and credibility for the plans that will be implemented, parents, and community members are invited to give regular feedback and suggestions concerning the plans to reopen through surveys and community meetings. This document, “Reopening Our School,” represents a fluid plan subject to change as new information is provided.

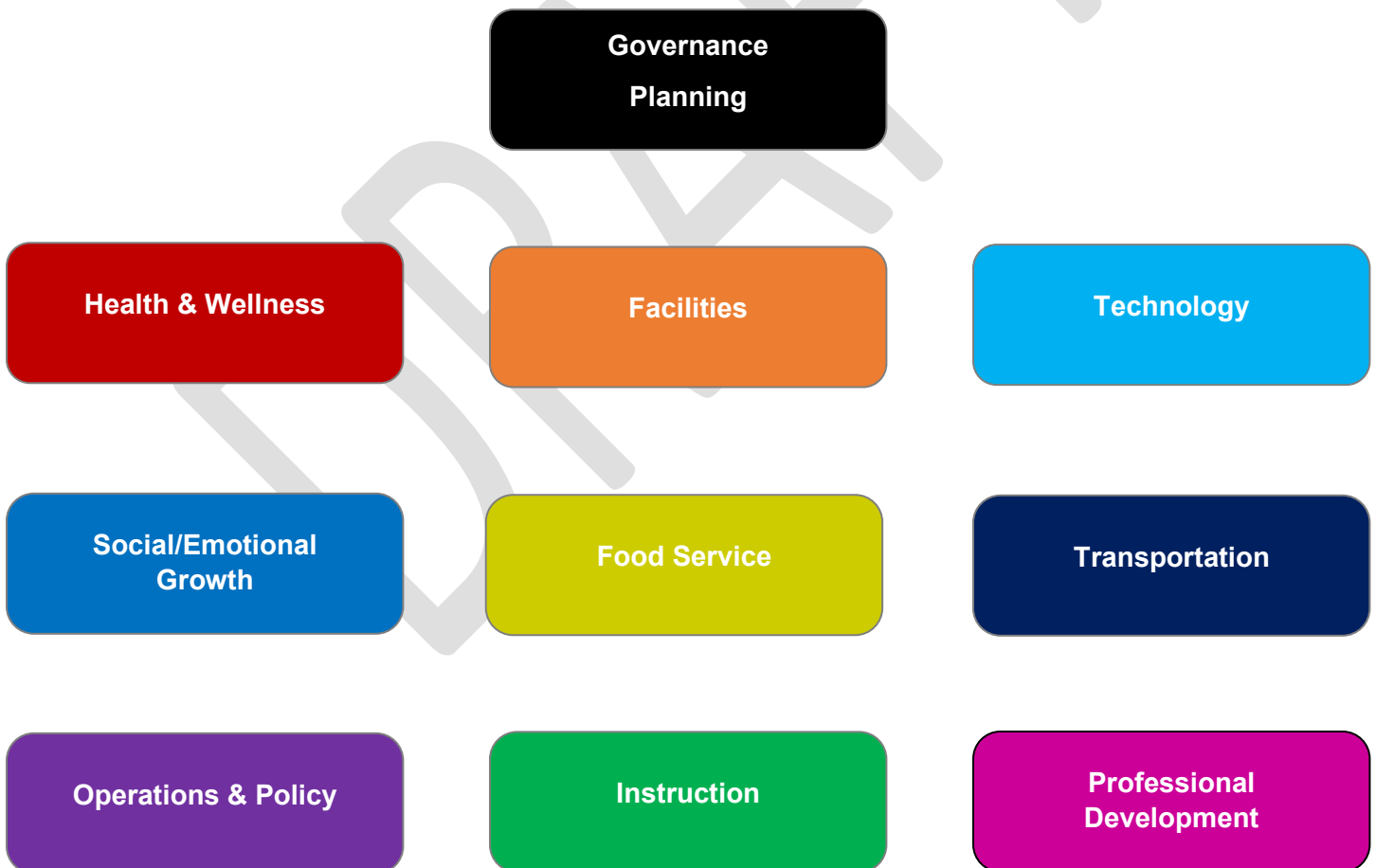
Compliance Liaison



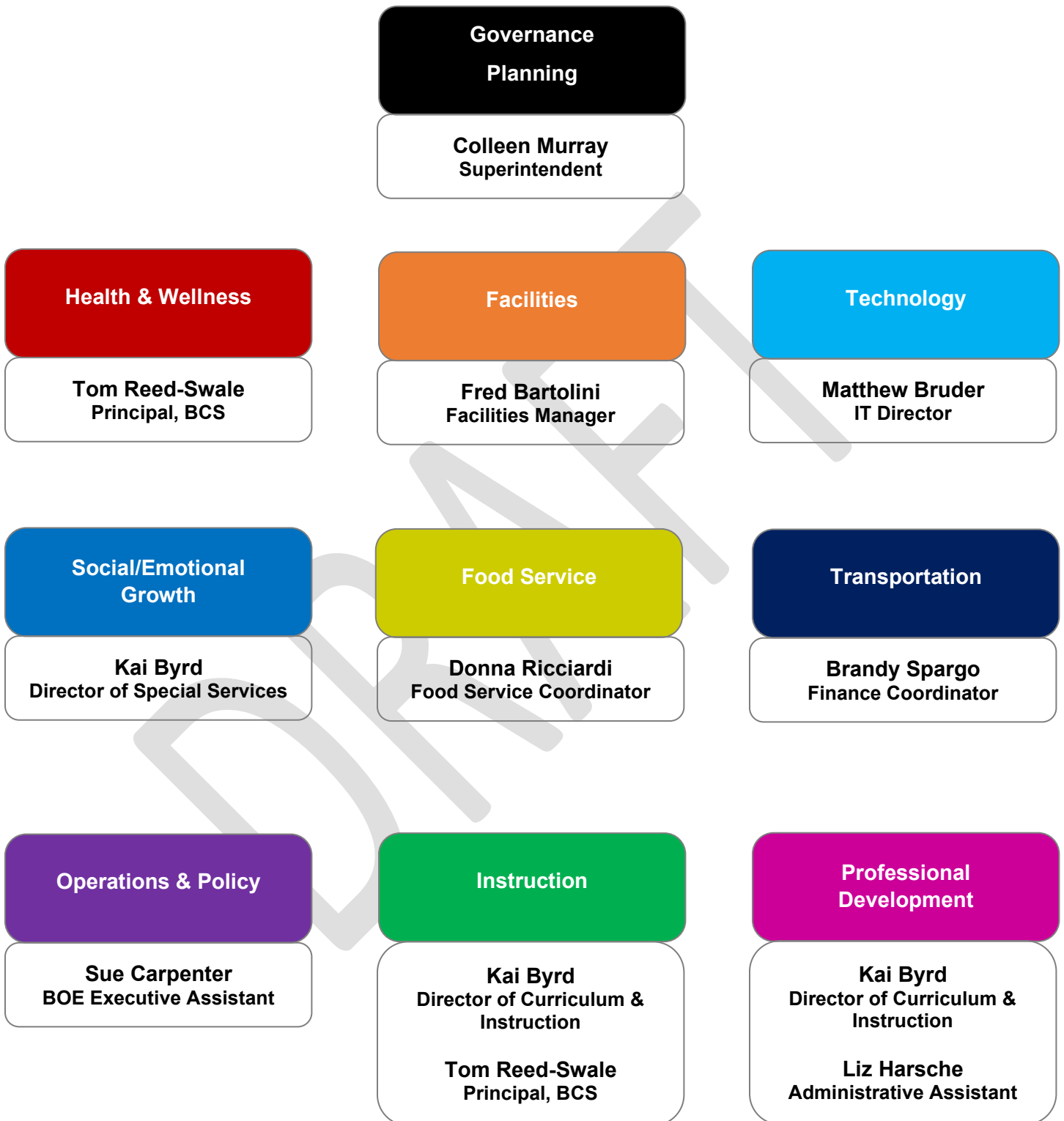
The Superintendent has appointed Mr. Thomas Reed-Swale, Bethany Community School Principal, as the COVID-19 Health & Safety Compliance Liaison and COVID-19 Response Leader.

- The Liaison, along with the Superintendent, will engage with students, parents, faculty, staff, and administrators to answer questions about the health and safety requirements set out in this document and address questions about compliance.
- The Liaison, along with the Superintendent, will support the implementation of these requirements, as well as the implementation of other school health and safety measures relating to COVID-19 and any additional guidance provided by the State of Connecticut and QVHD.

District Reopening Committee Focus Areas



District Reopening Committee



District Reopening Subcommittees

Health & Wellness

Tom Reed-Swale
 Fred Bartolini
 Jennifer Bobok
 Francine Du Verger
 Kathie Els
 Liz Harsche
 Kirstyn Masiello
 Colleen Murray
 Heather Sniffin
Consultants
 Dr. Namita Wijsekera (BOE)
 Dr. Amir Mohammad (QVHD)

Facilities

Fred Bartolini
 Sue Carpenter
 Colleen Murray
 Tom Reed-Swale

Technology

Matthew Bruder
 Jaime Bowen
 Sue Carpenter
 Colleen Murray
 Michelle Schwenger
 Kim Wolcott

Social/Emotional

Kai Byrd
 Francine Du Verger
 Liz Harsche
 Andrea Hubbard
 Amanda Kemp
 Marjorie Nusom
 Kerrie Payne
 Amanda Royce
 Heather Sniffin
 Tina Spagnoletti
 Tom Reed-Swale
Consultant
 Dr. Ryan Loss (CBH)

Food Service

Donna Ricciardi
 Sue Carpenter
 Colleen Murray
 Tom Reed-Swale
Consultant
 Peter Ferrara (Chartwells)

Transportation

Brandy Spargo
 Sue Carpenter
 Liz Harsche
 Colleen Murray
Consultant
 Beth Cohen
 (B&B Transportation)

Operations & Policy

Sue Carpenter
 Kai Byrd
 Colleen Murray
 Tom Reed-Swale
 Brandy Spargo
 Bethany Board of Education
Consultant
 Rebecca Santiago
 (Shipman & Goodwin)

Instruction

Kai Byrd
Tom Reed-Swale
 Jaime Bowen
 James Bruni
 Krista Colby
 Kathie Els
 Andrea Hubbard
 Colleen Murray
 Kerrie Payne
 Heather Sniffin
 Kim Wolcott
Consultant
 Dr. Marie Alcock
 (Learning Systems Associates)

Professional Development

Kai Byrd
Liz Harsche
 Jaime Bowen
 James Bruni
 Krista Colby
 Kathie Els
 Andrea Hubbard
 Colleen Murray
 Marjorie Nusom
 Kerrie Payne
 Heather Sniffin
 Tom Reed-Swale
 Kim Wolcott
Consultant
 Dr. Marie Alcock
 (Learning Systems Associates)

Other advisory groups include the Bethany Board of Education, Town Officials, Bethany Parks and Recreation, Community Organizations, Parent Teacher Organization, and Bethany Educator Association. A Reopen BCS Webinar is scheduled for late July to communicate the plan and answer questions from the school community.

Reopening Our School Calendar

On July 14, 2020, the Commissioner of Education, Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, and the Connecticut State Board of Education gave temporary authorization for Local Boards of Education to waive up to a maximum of 3 days from the 180-day requirement set forth in Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-15 for an unavoidable emergency, to provide staff and families with additional time to build capacity to safely transition back to in-person classes. Such waiver is limited to instances whereby a school district uses the days prior to the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year and must adhere to 177 student days, per school calendar. As defined by the Connecticut State Board of Education and Commissioner Cardona, the additional days may be used for the purposes of including but not limited to:

- Training and professional development specifically to address new requirements or policies related to health and safety in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Time for educators and staff to plan classroom set-up and consider changes to facilities required to maximize safety measures; and/or
- Provide for social-emotional services to staff and training to prepare them to provide that support to students as the community transitions back into the school buildings.





Due to the unprecedented circumstances related to an unavoidable public health emergency and the necessity for schools to safely prepare to maximize support and instruction during the 2020-2021 school year, the Bethany Public School District has decided to use the 3 waiver days from the scheduled 182 student days, to build the staff's capacity to safely transition back to in-person classes. Certified teachers will receive professional training and planning time from August 20th to August 27th. Non-certified instructional staff will report back to school for training and planning from August 24th to August 27th.

Recognizing that it is going to be a very difficult transition back to school for some of our students, District and school administration feel strongly that BCS students will benefit from a Back-to-School Orientation Day, where staff and students will be able to reconnect, practice new health and safety protocols and acclimate to changes to the traditional school day structure. This plan allows for students whose last name begins with A - K to attend school on an early dismissal day schedule for an orientation with their teachers on Monday, August 31st. Students whose last name begins with L - Z would attend school on an early dismissal day schedule with their teachers on Tuesday, September 1st. Bus transportation will be provided to and from school on the proposed orientation days. All students will attend school Wednesday, September 2nd through Friday, September 4th using an early dismissal schedule. State guidelines require school districts to have systems and protocols in place to address the safety of our staff and students. Some of those systems include bus transportation, drop off and pick up, traffic flow inside the building, social distancing, protective face coverings, social and emotional learning, technology and digital platforms, and dismissal. These few shortened days will ease our students back into a routine and allow staff to meet in the afternoon to debrief on how effective and efficient the new systems put into place went and to problem-solve any changes needed before the next day. Full day for all students would commence on Tuesday, September 8th following the Labor Day long weekend. This proposal to reopen BCS provides 178 student days, compliant with State guidelines.

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2020				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
17	18	19	20 Staff Professional Development	21 Staff Professional Development
24 Staff Professional Development	25 Staff Professional Development	26 Staff Professional Development	27 Staff Professional Development	28
31 In-Person Orientation Student Last Name A-K Early Dismissal Day PM Teacher Preparation/Meetings	1 In-Person Orientation Student Last Name L-Z Early Dismissal Day PM Teacher Preparation/Meetings	2 In-Person Learning All Students Early Dismissal Day PM Teacher Preparation/Meetings	3 In-Person Learning All Students Early Dismissal Day PM Teacher Preparation/Meetings	4 In-Person Learning All Students Early Dismissal Day PM Teacher Preparation/Meetings
7 Labor Day No School	8 In-Person Learning All Students Full Day	9 In-Person Learning All Students Full Day	10 In-Person Learning All Students Full Day	11 In-Person Learning All Students Full Day

Bethany Priorities

The District has identified priority areas that must be in place to reopen including 1) the safety of the students and staff; 2) the development of appropriate educational opportunities; 3) the awareness of social and emotional well-being of students, families, and staff; and 4) the expectation that all children will achieve at the expected grade level by June 2021.

	<p>Safety of Students and Staff</p> <p>Our school will be prepared to reinforce healthy practices among our staff and students, take preventative actions to prevent the spread of all respiratory illnesses, and prepare for any potential cases or increased transmission of COVID-19.</p>
	<p>Development of Appropriate Educational Opportunities</p> <p>Our school will reopen with instructional schedules and model options that are flexible and based on current transmission levels understanding that we may start the school year with one model, and as new information becomes available about health and safety, may transition to different models.</p>
	<p>Awareness of Social and Emotional Well-Being</p> <p>Our school will reopen knowing that the COVID-19 pandemic has created different types of traumatic experiences and high levels of stress for many of our staff, students, and families. The pandemic has shown the importance of social/emotional well-being for all. In addition, there is a growing body of research proving that social/emotional learning is fundamental to academic success.</p>
	<p>Achievement at Expected Grade Level by June</p> <p>Our school will consider and solidify a systematic cycle of assessments, including initial screenings and formative and summative assessments to inform instruction and gauge student learning. We will work to analyze individual student data to identify shifts and changes in instruction to meet students' needs and implement intervention strategies.</p>

In addition to our own priorities, the District is expected to follow the guidelines of the State Department of Education's **Adapt, Advance Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together** document, published on June 29, 2020. The publication from the state is admittedly a document with guidelines that may change prior to school reopening in the Fall.

The document from the state is "intended to be a fluid document that will evolve based on the public health data trends as well as the understanding of the best way to mitigate spread. As we proceed toward the Fall, we will continue to receive input from our educational partners, students, and families and will continue to work toward providing the best opportunities for our greatest resource—the students in the State of Connecticut."

From *ADAPT, ADVANCE, ACHIEVE: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together*

State of Connecticut Guidelines & Expectations





Due to positive containment efforts in Connecticut, reopening schools in person can be successfully achieved based upon current data. Connecticut has determined it is appropriate to plan a consistent approach to the operating model (schedule) but be prepared to modify plans as necessary. Maximizing in-person instructional time after the current period of disruption is critical. However, given the fact that the reopening of schools is still a month away, and circumstances could change, schools must be prepared to modify their reopening model to support a partial reopening if the public health data changes.

Schools should plan to have all students, in all districts, return to schoolhouses for full-time instruction at the beginning of 2020-2021, so long as public health data continues to support this model. This model will be supported with intensive mitigation strategies and specific monitoring, containment, and class cancellation plans.

As Connecticut schools plan to reopen, the guidance and considerations outlined in this document are grounded in six guiding principles:

1. Safeguarding the health & safety of students and staff;
2. Allowing all students, the opportunity to return into the classrooms full time starting in the fall;
3. Monitoring the school populations and, when necessary, potentially cancelling classes in the future to appropriately contain COVID-19 spread;
4. Emphasizing equity, access, and support to the students and communities who are emerging from this historic disruption;
5. Fostering strong two-way communication with partners such as families, educators and staff; and
6. Factoring into decisions about reopening the challenges to the physical safety and social-emotional well-being of our students when they are not in school

Main Operational Considerations:

	Cohorting: Emphasizes grouping students by the same class/group of students and teachers (into a cohort) so each classroom functions independently, as much as possible. Consider this methodology by grade levels. Placing students in cohorts is strongly encouraged for grades K-6.		Transportation: Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) should plan for buses to operate close to capacity with heightened health and safety protocols, including requiring all students and operators wear face coverings. Plans must be developed to activate increased social distancing protocols based upon community spread.
	Social Distancing and Facilities: Review building space and reconfigure available classroom space, such as gymnasiums and auditoriums, to maximize social distancing, consistent with public health guidelines in place at that time.		Face Coverings: All staff and students will be expected to wear a protective face covering or face mask that completely covers the nose and mouth when inside the school building, except for certain exceptions including when teachers are providing instruction.

Keeping our school open...*is everyone's responsibility!*

The Bethany Public School District will rely on the cooperation of families, students, and staff members to reopen and stay open on a traditional schedule.

The hope for the Fall of 2020 is to safely bring back students to in-person school settings and to maximize learning and address our students' social and emotional needs. This document plans for a Fall return that outlines multiple possibilities, with a focus first and foremost on getting our students back into our school building.




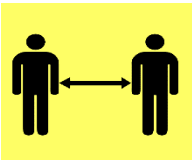


There is a clear consensus from both education and medical groups that we must keep in mind not only the risks associated with COVID-19 for in-person school programs but also the known challenges and consequences of keeping students out of school. While distance learning has provided the best possible alternative during school closures, there is no substitute for in-person instruction when it comes to the quality of students' academic learning. In-person school plays an equally important role in our ability to support students' social-emotional needs, including their mental and physical health, and in mitigating the impacts of trauma. We also recognize how disruptive the school closures have been to families trying to maintain regular work schedules and manage household needs, including childcare, while also facilitating remote learning.

Families play a critical role in supporting the new culture of health and safety that our school will establish. Most importantly, families can help mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 in our school by checking their children daily for any COVID-19 symptoms and keeping them home from school if they are sick or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19. Families can also contribute by supporting the use of face coverings or masks in school and on the bus, arranging alternate transportation whenever possible, communicating concerns with teachers and school leaders, and continuing to follow state guidance on health and safety outside of school.

With adherence to the State of Connecticut's comprehensive set of critical health and safety requirements along with the Bethany Public School District's commitment to a safe and appropriate education, we can bring our students, staff, and families safely back to school...**and keep them in school!**




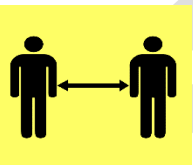



Bethany Student Expectations

	<p>Stay home if feeling ill.</p> <p>Students <u>MUST</u> stay home if they are feeling sick, have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.</p>
	<p>Morning health checks by parents required.</p> <p>In order to prevent transmission among the school population, parents are instructed to screen students before leaving the house for school every morning. It is recommended by the CDC that parents take two temperature readings, ten minutes apart, to assure accuracy. The child's temperature needs to be below 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit and they should not be exhibiting any symptoms associated with COVID-19 as outlined by public health officials in order to attend school.</p>
	<p>Face coverings or masks required.</p> <p>Students <u>MUST</u> wear face coverings or masks that completely cover the nose and mouth while inside the school and on the bus, with exceptions only for those students for whom it is not safe to do so due to medical conditions. "Mask breaks" will be provided during the day. Parents will be responsible for providing students with face coverings or masks. The school will have a reserve of disposable masks available for students who forget them.</p>
	<p>Social distancing required.</p> <p>Students <u>MUST</u> maintain social distancing to the greatest extent possible. Students are expected to practice social distancing when entering and exiting the building, in classrooms, and moving throughout the school. Sharing of school supplies and materials will not be allowed.</p>
	<p>Frequent hand washing or hand sanitizing expected.</p> <p>Students <u>MUST</u> engage in frequent hand washing or sanitizing upon arrival, before and after meals, after bathroom use, and after coughing or sneezing.</p>
	<p>Consistent Transportation Plans</p> <p>Students will be expected to ride the same bus to school in the morning and the same bus home in the afternoon every day. Exceptions will only be made for pre-approved, permanent, and consistent childcare arrangements. Face coverings or masks must be in place prior to entering the bus.</p> <p>To assist in our efforts to maintain social distancing, parents can voluntarily choose to transport their children to and from school every day and choose not to utilize bus transportation. The District will require a commitment from parents prior to the start of school and will require one week's notice to resume bus transportation after making the decision to drive every day.</p>

Keeping our school open...is everyone's responsibility!

Bethany Adult Expectations

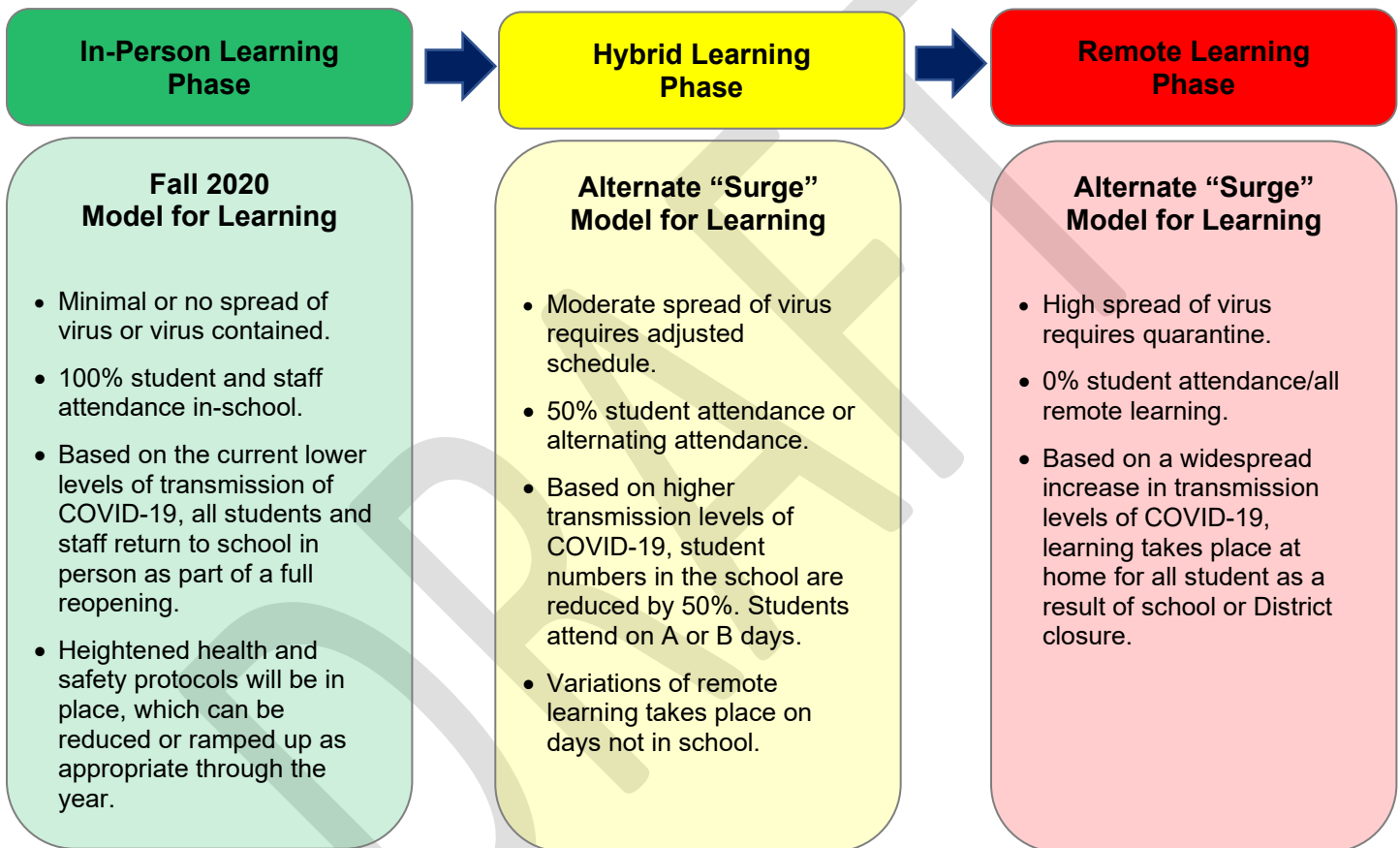
	<p>Stay home if feeling ill.</p> <p>Teachers, staff, and preapproved visitors MUST stay home if they are feeling sick, have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.</p>
	<p>Morning self-screening required.</p> <p>In order to prevent transmission among the school population, staff are instructed to self-screen before leaving their house for school every morning. It is recommended by the CDC that staff take two temperature readings, ten minutes apart, to assure accuracy. The staff member's temperature needs to be below 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit and they should not be exhibiting any symptoms associated with COVID-19 as outlined by public health officials in order to attend school.</p>
	<p>Face coverings or masks required.</p> <p>Teachers, staff, and preapproved visitors MUST wear face coverings or masks that completely cover the nose and mouth while inside the school, with exceptions only for those for whom it is not safe to do so due to medical conditions. "Mask breaks" will be provided during the day. Teachers will be allowed to remove masks during direct instruction, with greater social distancing. The school will have a reserve of disposable masks available for teachers and staff should they need them.</p>
	<p>Social distancing required.</p> <p>Teachers and staff MUST maintain social distancing to the greatest extent possible. Teachers and staff are expected to practice social distancing when entering and exiting the building, in classrooms, at lunch, and moving throughout the school.</p>
	<p>Frequent hand washing or hand sanitizing expected.</p> <p>Teachers and staff MUST engage in frequent hand washing or sanitizing upon arrival, before and after meals, after bathroom use, and after coughing or sneezing.</p>

Keeping our school open...is everyone's responsibility!

Continuum for Learning

The District is committed to **In-Person Learning**, meaning a full reopening, following all guidelines and expectations of the State, and maintaining health standards in accordance with the QVHD. However, if there is a surge of COVID-19, an increase of local cases, or the occurrence of in-school cases, the learning models may need to be adjusted as a result. Learning models that include Hybrid Learning and Remote Learning will only be utilized by the District if required by the State of Connecticut or the QVHD.

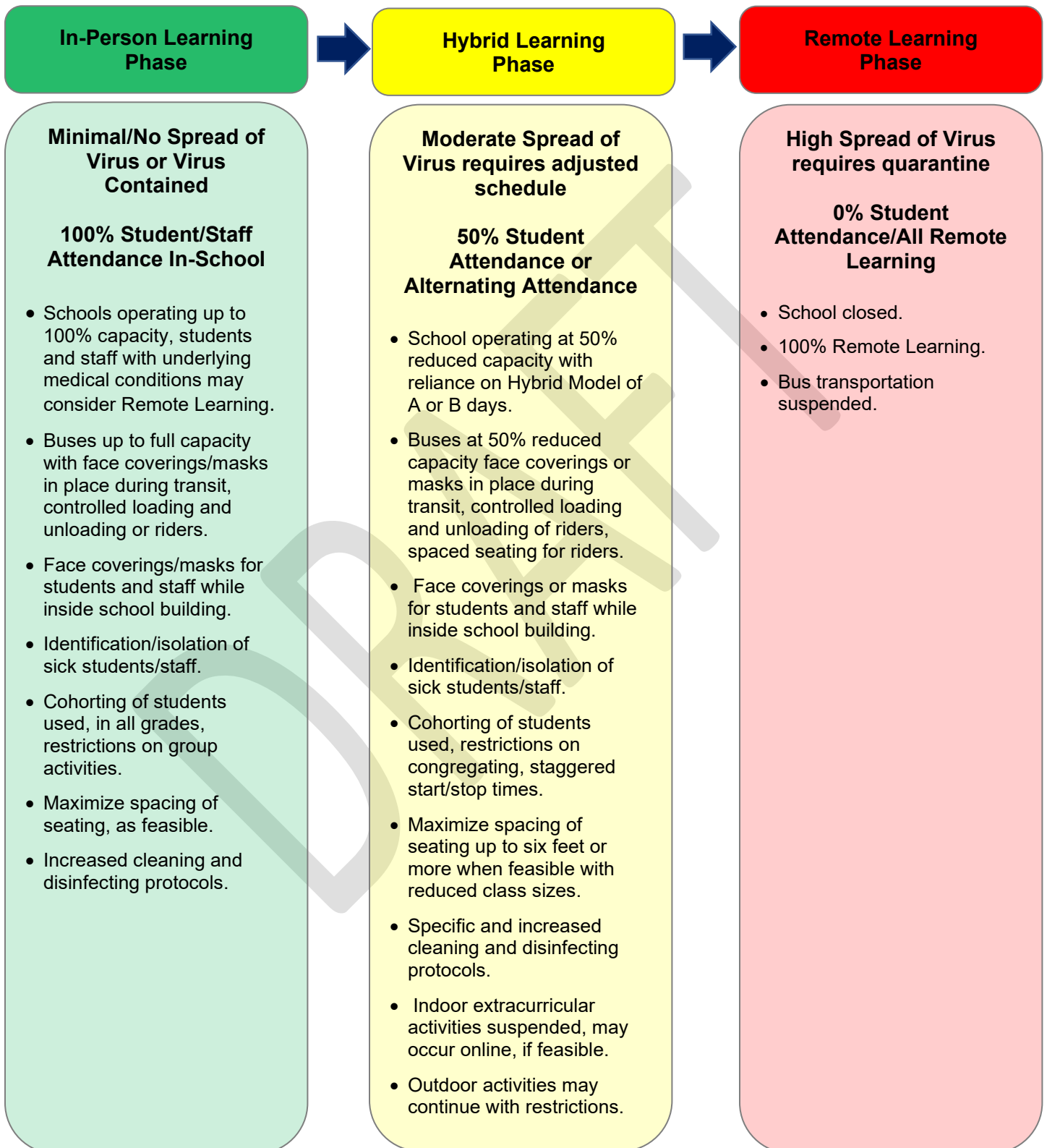
Bethany Public School District Learning Continuum



When our students return to school with our **In-Person Learning Model**, the District will do everything possible to make the school experience similar to what it has been in the past. While some aspects of the school will fundamentally look different when students and staff first return this Fall, our goal will be to achieve a sense of normalcy over the course of the school year as the situation allows and safety concerns are alleviated.

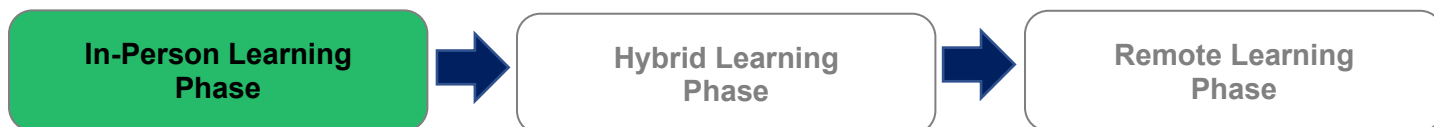
Continuum for Learning

Throughout the year, the District will be prepared to adjust plans based on health indicators and guidance from state and local health officials.



See accompanying charts on Monitoring COVID 19 and Pandemic Planning in this guide.

Fall 2020 Bethany Model for Learning



The in-person model of learning that will be in place for the reopening of the school is described below:

In-Person Learning

This model uses a traditional schedule with health & safety expectations in place. All students attend every day.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Students and teachers attend school every day with all State guidelines and expectations in place. Classroom learning and instructional activities are adjusted to provide the safest environment.				

Homebound Instruction

Students who are **required** to stay home due to a **documented medical condition**, COVID-19 illness, or **ordered** to quarantine, learn from home with support from the school. [District Policy](#) and [Administrative Regulation #6173](#) states that Homebound Instruction will be provided to students with compromised medical conditions that will cause prolonged absences from school, are on a quarantine order, or are medically complex. These students are eligible for an individualized remote learning plan in which students and parents engage in a form of Remote Learning with an individualized plan with materials and support provided by the school. In order to smoothly re-enter school after an extended period of time out and begin participating in the traditional schedule, it is strongly encouraged that students and parents work in collaboration with the Principal and BCS staff to develop an individualized learning plan. This track aids in a return to school at the appropriate point after illness or quarantine, and when the child's doctor deems it safe to return. Students on this track will be allowed to re-enter in-person school at any point in time with medical documentation from the student's treating physician.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Students and parents engage in an individualized plan with a form of Remote Learning, materials, and support provided by the school. The CT Learning Hub serves as an additional resource for students who cannot return to school right away.				

Home Learning

Students whose family temporarily chooses not to send them back to school for other reasons, and who do not have an underlying medical reason prohibiting them from returning to school, can learn from home under their parents' direction. In this situation, students will be able to access learning through the Google Classroom platform. Due to the current pandemic crisis, materials, resources, and staff support will be provided when available, and feasible at the discretion of the administration. The State of Connecticut has designed a [CT Learning Hub](#) as a resource for students who do not return to school. This model does not necessarily prepare students for a return to school without possible gaps in learning. Families choosing this option will not receive a traditional report card. The District is awaiting further guidance from the CSDE regarding Home Learning.

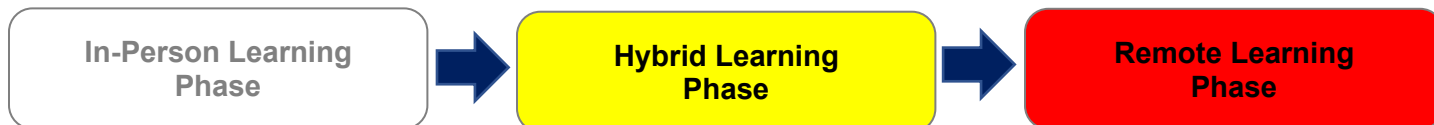
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Students and parents engage in Home Learning with materials, resources, and staff support when available and feasible. The CT Learning Hub serves as a resource for students who don't return to school right away.				

Home Schooling

Parents who wish to keep their student out of school for the year may choose to disenroll them from the Bethany Public School District. Homeschooling is subject to [Board Policy #6172.3](#).

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Students and parents engage in learning at home with no materials or support from the school. Classroom learning and instructional activities are developed by the parent.				

Alternate "Surge" Models for Learning



Recognizing the uncertainty that lies ahead, the District is prepared with alternate learning plans as follow:

Hybrid Learning

As a result of a minimal or moderate surge in COVID-19, smaller groups of students are returned to school for in-person learning, while the others are learning at home, using an alternating schedule. If the State of Connecticut and/or QVHD places limits on student access to schools/buses due to a surge of COVID-19 cases, the following schedule will be used.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Student Group A <u>In-Person Learning</u> Students with last names beginning with A-K.	Student Group B <u>In-Person Learning</u> Students with last names beginning with L-Z.	All Students Remote Learning Early Dismissal Teacher preparation and virtual meetings in the afternoon.	Student Group A <u>In-Person Learning</u> Students with last names beginning with A-K.	Student Group B <u>In-Person Learning</u> Students with last names beginning with L-Z.
Student Group B <u>Home Learning</u> Students with last names beginning with L-Z.	Student Group A <u>Home Learning</u> Students with last names beginning with A-K.		Student Group B <u>Home Learning</u> Students with last names beginning with L-Z.	Student Group A <u>Home Learning</u> Students with last names beginning with A-K.

Student Groups A and B will be organized alphabetically by last name to keep families together and in collaboration with the middle and high school group assignments. When students are not in-person at BCS, they will work at home with materials provided by the teacher and/or the school. In the Hybrid Model, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday are full days of instruction. Wednesday is an early dismissal day.

Remote Learning

Due to a high risk of community transmission, the school will need to close either short term (days/weeks) or long term (months). If the State of Connecticut and/or QVHD deems it necessary to close all in-person models of learning, the following schedule will be used.

Students and parents engage in Remote Learning with materials and support from the school. Classroom learning and instructional activities are shared through contact with the teacher. Based on stakeholder input, this Remote Learning plan is an updated and revised version of the Distance Learning Model from the Spring of 2020 with an increase in synchronous learning opportunities.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
All Students Remote Learning	All Students Remote Learning	All Students Remote Learning Early Dismissal Teacher preparation and virtual meetings in the afternoon.	All Students Remote Learning	All Students Remote Learning

Sample Grades K - 4 Schedule

8:30-8:40	Teacher Open Office Hours*
8:40-9:05	Morning Meeting/Social Emotional Learning
9:05-9:35	What I Need (WIN)
9:35-10:00	Foundations
10:00-10:30	English Language Arts (ELA)
10:30-11:00	Special Area (PE, Library, Art, Music, Spanish)
11:00-11:30	ELA Office Hours
11:30-12:00	Math
12:00-12:30	Lunch
12:30-1:00	Math Office Hours
1:00-1:30	Science/Social Studies
1:30-2:00	WIN
2:00-3:10	Teacher Open Office Hours*

Sample Grades 5 & 6 Schedule

8:30-8:40	Teacher Open Office Hours*
8:40-9:05	Morning Meeting/Social Emotional Learning
9:05-9:30	What I Need (WIN)
9:30-10:00	Special Area (PE, Library, Art, Music, Spanish)
10:00-10:30	Math
10:30-11:00	Science
11:00-11:30	Social Studies
11:30-12:00	Reading
12:00-12:30	Lunch
12:30-1:00	Writing
1:00-1:30	WIN
1:30-3:10	Teacher Open Office Hours*

*This time is reserved for teachers to prepare online lessons, review student work, and be available to respond to any student needs.

Monitoring COVID-19

The District will follow a traditional schedule of school while monitoring the level of transmission of COVID-19 with the assistance of the QVHD. Ideally, the Town of Bethany will remain in the “green” level with little or no community transmission. School schedules and/or protocols may be adjusted if the community enters a “yellow” level with minimal or moderate community transmission. If there is a substantial surge in local cases, based on guidance from the State of Connecticut and/or the QVHD, the school will revert to a Remote Learning Model.



LITTLE or NO COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION

Minimal/No Spread of Virus or Virus Contained

- Instruction is 100% in-person.
- Daily attendance rates monitored.
- Teaching and reinforcing of healthy hygiene.
- Prevention measures in place.
- Social distancing in place.
- Group gatherings/events limited; all require approval.
- Remain prepared for Remote Learning while learning is In-Person at school or Hybrid Learning takes place.
- Cleaning and disinfecting in place.
- Regular communication with QVHD and School Medical Advisor.



MINIMAL or MODERATE COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION

Moderate Spread of Virus requires possible adjusted schedule and adjusted transportation

- Instruction is 100% in-person or 50%/50% Hybrid.
- Daily attendance rates monitored and shared with local health officials.
- Concentrated reinforcement of healthy hygiene.
- Heightened prevention measures in place.
- Heightened social distancing in place with limitations in activities/events.
- Group gatherings/events postponed.
- Active preparation for Remote Learning and/or short-term school closure resulting in possible Remote Learning for two-week periods.
- Intensified cleaning and disinfecting in place.
- Coordination of closure with State and/or QVHD.



SUBSTANTIAL COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION

High Spread of Virus Requiring Quarantine

- Instruction is 100% Remote Learning.
- Attendance for Remote Learning is monitored based on participation from home.
- Communication to home on healthy hygiene practices.
- Quarantine measures in place for essential personnel.
- Communication to home on social distancing practices.
- All group gatherings/events cancelled.
- Continue engagement in Remote Learning during extended school closure for longer periods of time.
- Classroom and buildings disinfected and shut down.
- Order of closure from the Governor's Executive Order and/or from QVHD.

All plans are subject to change or be adjusted as needed.



IN SCHOOL TRANSMISSION

- If a student, staff member, or preapproved visitor has a **confirmed diagnosis** of COVID-19 or is suspected of being sick, the School Nurse and the school Principal/Compliance Liaison will contact the Superintendent. Confidentiality in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act should always be maintained.
- The Superintendent will notify QVHD and the School Medical Advisor immediately.
- The QVHD will assess risk of further transmission in the school.
- Under the advice of QVHD and/or the State of Connecticut, decisions are made concerning:
 - Contact tracing
 - Closure
 - Cleaning
 - Continuity of Education
 - Reopening of School
- The decision to suspend or close the school will be made by the Superintendent in collaboration with QVHD, the School Medical Advisor, Department of Public Health and the State Department of Education.
- Board of Education members and Town Officials are notified of closure as well as the State Department of Education.
- The school will likely implement a short-term closure (2-5 days) or longer regardless of community spread if an infected person has been in the school building. The CDC recommends dismissal of students and most staff for 2-5 days. This initial short-term dismissal allows time for the local health officials to gain a better understanding of the COVID-19 situation impacting the school. This allows the Superintendent, in consultation with local health officials, to determine appropriate next steps, including whether an extended dismissal duration is needed to stop or slow further spread of COVID-19.
- All communications to the school community, including staff and families, are made in collaboration with the QVHD and the Superintendent.
- During a school closure, all extracurricular activities, athletics, and school-based afterschool programs are canceled.

A confirmed case in the school building:



Assess risk with local health officials.

Plan for short (2-5 days) or longer (10 days) closure to clean, disinfect, and contact trace in consultation with the Quinnipiack Valley Health District.

Focus Area Checklists

The purpose of this section of the document, “Reopening Our School” is to articulate a checklist for reopening in each of the focus areas for at least the first 12-weeks of school (longer/shorter as conditions warrant). The checklists are meant to be shared with staff, families, and community members. The length of time for the various protocol will be adjusted based on expectations from the State of Connecticut and local health officials (Quinnipiac Valley Health District).

Bethany Community School administration and staff will be responsible for making sure the approved “Reopening Our School” plan is implemented. The checklists on the following pages provide guidance for the District Reopening Committee and School Reopening Subcommittees. Checklist items are categorized as follows:

	Checklist item is required by the State of Connecticut and the Bethany Public School District.
	Checklist item is recommended by the State but required by the Bethany Public School District.
	Checklist item determined necessary by the Bethany Public School District.














Health & Wellness Checklist

The health and safety of students and staff is the top priority in planning for the District's reopening. The District will work in collaboration with Quinnipiack Valley Health District, the Connecticut State Department of Education, the Office of the Governor, and the school medical advisor in planning for health and wellness procedures, as well as making decisions regarding the status of the school.

Health expectations for reopening Bethany Community School	
1. Conditions for reopening have been confirmed by the State of Connecticut and/or local health officials, Quinnipiack Valley Health District.	
	The State of Connecticut has lifted, adjusted, or removed any school closure or Executive Order allowing schools to physically reopen.
	The local health officials (Quinnipiack Valley Health District) have determined that local conditions safely allow for Bethany Community School to physically reopen.
2. Planning guidelines for reopening have been issued by the State of Connecticut and Bethany plans have been developed and approved at the local level under the supervision of the Superintendent.	
	The State of Connecticut and State Department of Education has issued guidelines on which school reopening plans are to be based.
	The Bethany Public School District's reopening plan, "Reopening Our School" has been developed in consultation with the Quinnipiack Valley Health District.
	The Bethany Public School District's reopening plan, "Reopening Our School" has been approved by the Executive Reopening Committee and shared with the Board of Education, Town Officials, staff, and the school community.
3. The School Nurse, Facilities Director, and Central Office Health Supplies Procurer have confirmed that there is adequate protective equipment in place for reopening.	
★	There is protective equipment (including masks) for students in the classrooms and throughout the building.
★	There is protective equipment (including masks and PPE) for staff appropriate for each classification or duty.
	There is a plan for an ongoing supply of protective equipment.
	There is a sufficient number of no-touch thermal scan thermometers for symptom screenings.
	There is sufficient PPE for the staff of various populations of students with disabilities (i.e., for those requiring medical procedures, toileting, lifting, and mobility assistance).
	There is a sufficient supply of school-appropriate cleaning supplies to continuously disinfect the school site in accordance with the State of Connecticut & DPH guidance.
★	There are sufficient supplies that include hand sanitizers, soap, handwashing stations, tissues, no-touch trash cans, no-touch toilets, no-touch faucets, and paper towels.
4. The Superintendent has established a procedure should there be COVID-19 cases in the school or in the community that could potentially impact the school.	
	The Superintendent has updated the Bethany Public School District's Pandemic Response Plan that includes procedures for a case or cases of COVID-19. This procedure includes communication to QVHD when a student, teacher, or staff member or a member of their household has tested positive for COVID-19 and has possibly exposed others at the school.
	The Principal and Facilities Manager have procedures for isolating an area of the school for a length of time based on 1) a positive COVID-19 case or cases in the school and 2) the risk level within the school/community as determined by the QVHD.
	The Superintendent has a procedure for the closure of school for a length of time based on 1) a positive COVID-19 case or cases and 2) the risk level within the school/community as determined by the QVHD.
	The Board has granted the Superintendent the authority to take any lawful actions necessary to ensure the continuation of public education, provide for the health and safety of students and employees, or to respond to direction from the State of Connecticut and/or the QVHD.
	The Board has granted the Superintendent the authority to limit access to public school grounds and the school building during a school closure or when elevated levels of transmission are in the area.
	Under the supervision of the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, the school will be able to provide for continuity of instruction/remote learning, if necessary.

















	Under the supervision of the Director of Special Services, the school will be prepared for any special or unique needs for students with disabilities related to planned District or school-wide procedures.
	Under the supervision of the Director of Food Services and the Food Services Coordinator, the school will be able to provide for continuity of meal service, if necessary.
5.	The Superintendent has authorized limited access and/or restricted access to the school by the public.
	The Superintendent has approved restricting access to the school building during the school day by nonessential visitors and minimal use of the school building outside of school hours.
	Students, parents, caregivers, volunteers, and staff are excluded from school facilities if showing symptoms of COVID-19 or if a member of their household has tested positive for COVID-19.
6.	The School Nurse and Principal have organized a screening procedure for students at home and to the extent possible, at school.
★	Passive Screening: Parents are instructed to screen students before leaving for school by checking to ensure temperatures are below 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit and to observe for symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Parents are asked to keep students at home if they are feeling sick, have any symptoms associated with COVID-19, or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.
★	Active Screening: The school will screen students as they enter school consistent with state and local health guidance, which includes visual wellness checks and any necessary follow-up temperature checks with no-touch thermometers (checking to ensure temperatures are below 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit). Students will be observed for illnesses including cough or respiratory distress. Students may be asked about COVID-19 symptoms within the last 24 hours and whether anyone in their home has had COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test. NOTE: Screening procedures for all children are not required at the point of entry to the school. School staff will observe students throughout the day and refer students who may be symptomatic to the School Nurse. NOTE: While temperature checks for all children at the point of entry are not required due to the high likelihood of potential false positive and false negative results, The school has available two thermal camera kiosks, located at main entrances monitored by the School Nurse, and assigned staff.
	In screening students who appear ill, only the School Nurse shall use a thermometer requiring a touch method (under the tongue or arm, forehead, etc.). Caution will be taken by the School Nurse including wearing gloves, eye protection, and a mask.
★	Students with a temperature greater than 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit are not permitted to attend school. Students will be allowed to return 24 hours after a fever has broken, and with a note from their healthcare provider, or with a documented negative COVID-19 test.
★	The School Nurse will monitor screening information/data of students while complying with relevant privacy and health laws.
★	The School Nurse will monitor symptoms in students and staff that could be related to COVID-19, with the goal of decreasing the risk of spreading or contracting the virus while complying with relevant privacy and health laws.
★	The Principal will oversee procedures for all students to sanitize hands prior to boarding school buses.
★	The Principal will oversee procedures for all students to sanitize hands upon entering schools.
★	The Principal will oversee that upon entry to school large gatherings are avoided. Students will proceed directly to classrooms or small group designated areas.
7.	The School Nurse and Principal have organized a screening of staff at home and to the extent possible, at school.
★	Passive Screening: Staff are instructed to self-screen before leaving for school by checking to ensure their temperature is below 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit and to observe for symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Staff are asked to stay at home if they are feeling sick, have any symptoms associated with COVID-19, or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.
★	Active Screening: The school will screen staff as they enter school consistent with state and local health guidance, which includes visual wellness checks and any necessary follow-up temperature checks with no-touch thermometers (checking to ensure temperatures are below 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit). Staff will be observed for illnesses including cough or respiratory distress. Staff may be asked about COVID-19 symptoms within the last 24 hours and whether anyone in their home has had COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test.
★	Staff with a temperature greater than 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit are not permitted into the school. Staff will be allowed to return 24 hours after a fever has broken, or with a note from their healthcare provider, or with a documented negative COVID-19 test.
★	The School Nurse will monitor screening information/data of staff while complying with relevant privacy and health laws.

	The School Nurse will monitor staff symptoms that could be related to COVID-19, with the goal of decreasing the risk of spreading or contracting the virus while complying with relevant privacy and health laws.
	The Principal will oversee procedures for all staff to sanitize hands upon entering schools.
8. The Superintendent has developed a uniform procedure for symptomatic students.	
	Students who are symptomatic while entering school or become symptomatic during the school day will be separated from others right away by the School Nurse.
	Students exhibiting symptoms will be required to continue to wear a face covering or mask and wait in a supervised, designated isolated area through which others do not enter until the student can be transported home.
	If more than one student is in the isolation area, physical distancing will be maintained.
	The School Nurse will have a plan for triaging students in the health office, recognizing that not all symptoms are COVID-19 related.
	The School Nurse will advise parents of sick students that they are not to return until they have met CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation. Students will be allowed to return 24 hours after a fever has broken, or with a note from their healthcare provider, or with a documented negative COVID-19 test.
	There will be no COVID-19 testing of students at school. Local test site information will be shared with families. The school's nursing office will monitor the testing results of students once made available by parents, complying with relevant privacy and health laws.
	If a student, who has been present in school, has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, the School Nurse and the Principal will contact the Superintendent who will notify the QVHD and the School Medical Advisor immediately. In addition, school staff will notify the Superintendent that a student is suspected of being sick while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.
	Bethany Community School has a response team coordinated by the Principal with designated responsibilities including monitoring of attendance, symptoms, and screening, communications to families, overseeing cleaning procedures, and responding to suspected confirmed cases.
9. The Superintendent has developed a uniform procedure for symptomatic staff and preapproved volunteers.	
	Adults who are symptomatic while entering school or become symptomatic during the school day will be sent home and advised to seek medical care.
	The School Nurse will advise adults not to return until they have met CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation. Staff will be allowed to return 24 hours after a fever has broken, or with a note from their healthcare provider, or with a documented negative COVID-19 test.
	There will be no COVID-19 testing of adults at school. Local test site information will be shared with adults. The school's nursing office will monitor the testing results of adults complying with relevant privacy and health laws.
	If an adult, who has been present in school, has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, the School Nurse and the Principal will contact the Superintendent who will notify the QVHD immediately. In addition, school staff will notify the Superintendent that an adult is suspected of being sick while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.
10. Outside visitors and groups will have very limited or no access to the school during the school day.	
	Access to the building by adult visitors including parents will be extremely limited and only when preapproved by the administration for specific educational purposes. Visitors under the age of 18 will not be permitted in the building.
	Bethany Community School will post signage that includes the following wording, "Visitors are not permitted to enter the school building unless preapproved or required by law."
	Passive Screening: Adult visitors with prior approval to enter the building are instructed to self-screen before leaving their home by checking to ensure temperatures are below 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit and to observe for symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Adult visitors are to stay at home if they are feeling sick, have any symptoms associated with COVID-19, or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.

★	<p>Active Screening: The school will screen preapproved adult visitors as they enter the building in accordance with state and local health guidance, which includes visual wellness checks, a temperature check with a no-touch thermometer, and a questionnaire.</p> <p>Any adult visitors with temperatures over 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit will not be allowed in the building. Adult visitors with temperatures below 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit will be asked the following questions: 1) Have you experienced any COVID-19 symptoms within the last 24 hours?; 2) Has anyone in your home experienced any COVID-19 symptoms within the last 24 hours?; 3) Have you or anyone in your home tested positive for COVID-19?; 4) Have you traveled outside of Connecticut in the last 2 weeks? If so, where?</p>
	BCS office staff will maintain a log of preapproved adult visitors allowed into the building. The log will include name, contact phone number, purpose of visit, and arrival/departure time.
★	The Principal and school office staff will organize parent pick up/drop off of students. The use of a face covering or mask will be required of anyone on campus. Pick up in the afternoon will be modified to ensure that parents have limited or no access to the interior of the school building.
★	The Superintendent will review all requests for building use. Limited access will be allowed.
★	The Superintendent will ensure that external community organizations that provide before and after school care must follow the school's health and safety plans, as well as the expectations of QVHD.
	There are procedures at BCS developed by the Principal and the Facilities Manager for safely accepting deliveries.

Wellness expectations for reopening Bethany Community School

1.	The School Nurse will oversee high standards of hygiene (handwashing/sanitizing) and training for all in the school.
	<p>The School Nurse will ensure, in accordance with CDC guidance, that handwashing/sanitizing includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for students and staff to meet handwashing/sanitizing frequency guidance. • Sufficient access to handwashing and sanitizer stations. • The availability of fragrance-free hand sanitizer (with a minimum of 60% alcohol). <p>Children under age nine use hand sanitizer under adult supervision.</p>
★	The School Nurse will identify the training needs of staff related to health and safety protocols and work with the Director of Curriculum & Instruction and Human Resources who will oversee such training prior to the first day of classes.
★	The Director of Curriculum & Instruction and Human Resources will plan in-person or online training that includes social distancing, cleaning protocols, and hygiene practices. The Principal will ensure access for all students and staff, as well as for interested family members.
★	Wellness training will be provided to substitutes.
★	The Director of Curriculum & Instruction and Human Resources will designate, in addition to the School Nurse, an additional 1 to 2 people to assist with training as needed.
★	<p>The Principal will review guidance/training and post signage on proper handwashing techniques with students, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrub with soap for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not accessible. • Staff and students should dry their hands thoroughly. <p>Wash/sanitize hands when: arriving and leaving home, arriving at and leaving school, after playing outside, after having close contact with others, after using shared surfaces or tools, before and after using the restroom, after blowing nose, coughing, and sneezing, and before and after eating and preparing foods.</p>
★	The Principal and teachers will ensure that students receive ongoing education in the expectations related to all public health policies and protocols. Students will be educated about how coronavirus spreads, and how preventative actions help mitigate the spread (i.e., that masks keep droplets out of the air and hand hygiene keeps the virus out of one's mouth/nose/eyes).
★	<p>The Principal will assess the best approach to communicate wellness information for each age group and plan to set aside time at the beginning of the school year, as well as scheduling frequent reminders, to review the new policies and protocols. These practices include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • social distancing, • use of face coverings that completely cover the nose and mouth, • respiratory and cough etiquette, and • enhanced cleaning/disinfection of surfaces.

2. All school employees will assist in the expectation from the State of Connecticut that face coverings/masks are in place during the school day by all.	
	The following communication will appear in email, website, and social media: "For the safety of all students and staff, the State of Connecticut guidelines for returning to school and Bethany Board of Education policy requires that all students and staff must wear face coverings or masks that completely cover the nose and mouth while inside the school and on the bus."
	The only exceptions for face coverings or masks are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance, face coverings and masks are not required, per CDC guidance. Anyone who has a medical reason making it unsafe to wear a face covering, masks should not be required. A medical exemption requires a doctor's note from their medical provider.
	For students, face coverings/masks may be removed while eating, drinking, during physical education class, or when students are outside, and effectively practicing social distancing. Exceptions may also be necessary for certain identified special education students or other special populations.
	Parents are responsible for providing students with face coverings or masks.
	The school will have a reserve of disposable masks available for students who forget them.
	Teachers will establish times for "Mask breaks" during the school day. Breaks will occur when students can practice social distancing and/or when they are outside.
	Staff members will wear masks that completely cover their nose and mouth inside the school and will be assigned all necessary PPE as required for their role.
	For teachers and staff, face coverings/masks may be removed while teaching if the following conditions are in place: enhanced social distancing; remaining static behind a physical barrier of some sort; while eating, drinking, or when outside and effectively practicing social distancing.
	Appropriate PPE may also be used by staff who support students with special healthcare needs (who are not able to wear masks and who may need assistance with activities of daily living, such as toileting, eating).
	Staff working with students who are not wearing face coverings due to one of the allowable exemptions/exceptions and cannot maintain social distancing will be provided increased PPE.
	The school will have a reserve of PPE available for staff members who require them.
	Staff members will receive guidance/training on the proper use of PPE required for their role.
	The School Nurse and any staff member engaged in symptom screening will be provided the appropriate PPE.
	BCS office staff and food service employees will be provided the appropriate PPE.
	Plexiglass shields will be installed in the BCS main office and Learning Commons.
	Custodial staff will be provided authorized cleaning and disinfecting supplies and appropriate PPE as determined by the product manufacturer and CDC guidelines.
	Preapproved adult visitors and those making deliveries to the school must wear face coverings or masks that completely cover the nose and mouth.
	Information will be given to staff, students and, parents on proper use, removal, and washing of face coverings .
3. All school employees will assist in the expectation that Physical Distancing/Social Distancing is maintained as much as possible.	
	The school administration will be prepared to assist staff and students in determining and maintaining social distancing between individuals to reduce the transmission of the virus per the public health guidelines at that time.
	The Principal will be prepared to communicate and adjust the approach to social distancing if guidance from the CDC or DPH changes due to shifting public health data or evolving understanding of COVID-19 disease, including transmission.
	The school will create a plan for reasonable social distancing prior to the use by a classroom or group in all school areas.
	Even when social distancing expectations in classrooms, school spaces, hallways are met, students and staff MUST wear face coverings/masks in the building and on the bus.
	To the extent possible, the school will create teacher/student classroom cohorts to minimize the mixing of student groups throughout the day. Consistent teams/cohorts will minimize cross-contamination of student groups.

	The school will create plans to minimize the movement of students and staff as much as possible to reduce the number of students and staff that move throughout the building at any one time.
★	Traffic patterns in hallways will be designed to promote social distancing during passing times. Strategies will include staggered passing times or one-way traffic in hallways.
	Classroom seating will be assigned to students at all times during the day. Any alternate seating or shared seating in reading nooks, group centers, and other areas will not be allowed.
	The school will restrict the sharing of educational materials between individuals. These materials include such items as books, manipulatives, computers, calculators, writing utensils, and art supplies. No two individuals should use the same materials in a given school day without appropriate cleaning/disinfecting in between uses.
	Backpacks will be used to discourage the use of lockers as much as possible.
4. The Superintendent will oversee school activities, which will be allowed in a limited capacity on a case by case basis.	
	Before and after school clubs, activities, and events will be approved in advance by the Superintendent. Approval will be based on the ability to meet the safety expectations of students and staff involved. Online before and after school clubs, activities and events are encouraged whenever feasible.
	Recess time and use of playgrounds will be supervised and scheduled to ensure physical distancing. Recess time and locations will be adjusted for specific classrooms and/or cohorts.
★	The Principal and Director of Curriculum & Instruction will work with the physical education teacher in adapting curriculum and activities to be in line with guidance found in <i>Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together</i> . In general, activities will be limited to those that do not involve physical contact with other students or equipment until advised otherwise by state/local public health officials.
★	The Principal and Director of Curriculum & Instruction will work with the art and music teachers in adapting curriculum and activities to be in line with guidance found in <i>Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together</i> .
	School assemblies, concerts, and other programs with a large number of participants will be limited at the start of the school year and will require the approval of the Superintendent. Decisions will be made based on the size of activity, ability to maintain proper distancing, and safety expectations.
	Field trips and off-campus experiences will be cancelled at the start of the school year. Future decisions will be made based on the ability to maintain proper distancing and safety expectations as directed by state guidelines. Virtual field trips will be encouraged.
5. The School Nurse will oversee and monitor changes and updates to the State of Connecticut Requirements for Immunizations and Health Assessments.	
	Immunizations: Guidance from the Department of Public Health was issued dated June 17, 2020 emphasizing the importance of protecting students by staying up to date on immunizations.
	Health Assessments: Guidance from the CSDE was issued dated June 26, 2020 outlining the requirements for Health Assessments prior to students enrolling in school.
6. When the State of Connecticut adjusts social distancing guidelines due to a surge in COVID 19.	
	The District will determine student and staff capacity of classrooms and school spaces based on state/local guidelines accordingly.
	Classrooms will be arranged in a manner that minimizes face-to-face contact and increases the space between desks and/or provides desk shields.
	Other spaces in the building may be used for instructional activities to allow for appropriate distancing including gyms, cafeterias, libraries, larger rooms, outdoors.
	The school may need to limit the number of students present in classrooms and/or limit the number of students physically reporting to school each day based on guidelines issued by the State of Connecticut.
	The school schedule may be adjusted to meet the needs of social distancing in classrooms based on adjusted guidelines issued by the State of Connecticut. (See Hybrid and Remote Learning Models, page 12). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If student numbers are limited, a Hybrid Model will be implemented. • Adjusted State Guidelines may result in an extended period of Remote Learning by all students.

The following items are considered essential to reopening

Bethany Public School District Disposable Mask Inventory

Group	Quantity	12-Week Supply at 100% Attendance	12-Week Supply at 50% Attendance	Assumptions
Students	350 per week	4,200	2,100	1 disposable mask per week per student to supplement cloth masks provided by parents
Teachers and Other Staff	85 per week	1,020	510	1 disposable mask per week per staff member to supplement cloth masks provided by the employee
School Nurse and Health Providers	20 per week	240	120	10 disposable masks per week for the school nurse and those providing health and related services
Totals	455 Per week	5,460	2,730	

Bethany Public School District Personal Protective Equipment Inventory

Provided to staff members who may be in high-intensity contact with students or handling waste materials (e.g., nurses, custodians, special education, and other staff.)

Equipment	Quantity
Fabric Reusable Masks	740
Paper Mask	10,220
Clear Masks	600
Reusable Face Shields (Adult)	272
Reusable Face Shields (Child)	400
Disposable Nitrile Gloves (M, L, XL)	3,075
Disposable Isolation Gowns	120
Thermometers	24
Thermal Camera Kiosks	2
Tyvek Suit	1
Reusable Eye Protection	75
N-95 Ventilating Masks*	80







* Note: N-95 masks are recommended **only** if staff will be in contact with a suspected COVID-19 positive case and/or performing aerosol-generating procedures. KN-95 Ventilating Masks can be substituted for N-95 masks if they have been tested for filtration effectiveness. Staff expected to wear a N-95 mask will be fit tested prior to use.



Facilities Checklist

Policies and protocols related to facilities and operations will be reviewed regularly by the Board of Education, the Superintendent, Facilities Manager, and school administration with the understanding that the school may need to react quickly to changing conditions. Given the possibility of changes in public health data, there may be an increase or a relaxation of restrictions throughout the school year to respond effectively to health concerns.

Facility expectations for reopening Bethany Community School	
1.	The Facilities Manager and Principal will ensure that the school will meet high cleanliness standards prior to reopening and maintain a high level of cleanliness during the school year.
★	The Facilities Manager will oversee the reopening of the school building that specifically addresses high standards of cleanliness for all classrooms, bathrooms, hallways, and offices in the school.
	The Superintendent will conduct a walkthrough of the building prior to reopening with the Principal and the Facilities Manager to review cleanliness expectations as well as conducting a review of the reopening plan.
	The Facilities Manager and the Principal will communicate cleaning and hygiene protocols as recommended by the DPH and the CDC to staff and families.
	Building plans for disinfecting high touch surfaces will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Door handles• Handrails• Bottle fillers• Sink handles• Restroom surfaces• Instructional materials that cannot be supplied to a specific student
	Frequently touched surfaces and other equipment will be cleaned throughout the day. Desks and classroom supplies should not be shared, however, those that are used by more than one group will be cleaned in between usage.
	The school will have a plan for disinfecting the following between uses: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Desks after lunch• Classroom/office items, such as phones, copy machines, etc.
★	The school will install no-touch bathroom fixtures, wherever possible. Where no-touch technologies are available, doors will be propped open in accordance with fire and safety codes and trash lids removed.
★	The school will maximize the use of disposable towels and touchless paper towel dispensers.
★	The Principal will work with teachers to assess ways to minimize exposure from playground equipment use, including but not limited to ensuring only the cohort uses it at the same time, hand washing before and after use or use of hand sanitizer, and disinfecting other smaller outside equipment after each group of cohorts use.
★	Bathrooms should be sanitized at least twice a day. Where possible, the school will consider designating separate bathrooms for different cohorts or establishing shifts for classes to use the bathroom, thus avoid comingling.
	The Facilities Manager will use products that are approved by the DPH or CDC that are labeled to be effective against emerging viral pathogens, following label directions for appropriate dilution rates and contact times.
	Cleaning logs will be used to track the cleaning frequency of areas including bathrooms.
★	The Facilities Manager will ensure that the schools comply with DPH guidelines including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting of Schools during COVID-19.• Return to Service Guidance for Building Water Systems.• Guidance for School Systems for the Operation of Central and non-Central Ventilation Systems.

2. The Facilities Manager and Principal will ensure that schools meet distancing expectations by adjusting the set up in all classrooms.	
	<p>The Facilities Manager will oversee a reopening plan for BCS that specifically addresses social distancing for all classrooms, bathrooms, hallways, and offices in the school. This plan will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximized social distancing between student workstations, to achieve 6 feet if feasible, not required when determining the classroom layout. BCS classrooms are set up to allow for 4 to 6 feet of distancing. Tables in classrooms have been replaced by individual desks will face in the same direction rather than facing each other. If a table is used in other areas of the school, students will sit on only one side of the table, spaced apart. • Individual desk shields for staff and students will be provided. • Whereas social distance guidelines are greater for music, such classes will be relocated to the gymnasium. • Spanish, art, and library classes will be delivered in the classroom to minimize hallway traffic. • Where necessary, assess other spaces that may be repurposed for instruction in the school. • Maximized space between the teacher and students to prevent the transmission of respiratory droplets from teachers during instruction. If a teacher removes their face covering or mask during instruction, spacing should be increased beyond 6 feet. • Materials to mark classroom floors to define social/physical distancing will be provided to teachers.
	The Superintendent will do a walkthrough of the school prior to reopening with the Principal and the Facilities Manager to review distancing expectations as well as conducting a review of the reopening plan.
	The Facilities Manager and Principal will work together to ensure that classroom furniture besides desks are adjusted to create the maximum amount of space between students.
	Classroom bookcases, reading nooks, storage cabinets will be removed/repositioned to create the maximum amount of space between students.
	The Facilities Manager and Principal will work together to ensure that a dedicated medical isolation room has been established.
3. School Administrators will ensure that the school restricts the shared use of materials.	
	The Principal will work to ensure that staff restricts the sharing of educational materials between individuals including such items as books, manipulatives, computers, calculators, writing utensils, and art supplies. Teachers will ensure that there is a procedure for disinfecting any electronic devices, toys, books, and other games or learning aids that must be shared during the same school day.
	When shared space is used by multiple cohorts disinfecting of materials must occur in between the times when cohorts use the space/materials.
	Any shared seating in reading nooks, group centers, and other areas will not be allowed. Items that cannot be cleaned and sanitized such as shared stuffed animals will not be allowed in classrooms.
	Each student's belongings/school supplies will be separated and placed in an individually labeled storage container, cubby, locker, backpack, or other designated area depending on the grade level. Students will be encouraged to take home belongings each day to be cleaned. Belongings such as personal stuffed animals and other toys are not allowed.
4. The Facilities Manager will ensure that handwashing and sanitizing stations will be readily available.	
	The Facilities Manager will ensure that staff, students, and approved visitors have access to soap and water and/or hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol at all times.
5. The Facilities Manager and Principal will oversee a rapid response plan for suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19.	
	Bethany Community School will have a plan to close off infected areas and not reopen those areas until they have been cleaned and disinfected. The Facilities Manager will oversee the proper cleaning of any such area.
6. Signage will be posted in school that is highly visible as well as accessible for students with disabilities.	
	The Facilities Manager and Principal will work together to ensure the distribution of information and regular communication about the school actions to stop the spread of the virus. Signs will be posted in highly visible locations (e.g., school entrances, staff areas, and restrooms) that promote everyday protective measures and provide instruction related to properly washing hands and properly wearing cloth face coverings or masks.



Food Service Checklist

Food Service expectations for reopening Bethany Community School	
1. The Director of Food Service and Food Service Coordinator will ensure compliance with federal guidelines and local health official guidelines and any additional guidelines introduced regarding child nutrition.	
★	The Food Service Coordinator will actively promote and determine eligibility for, and make available, free and reduced-price meals to all eligible students.
★	The Director of Food Services and Food Service Coordinator will comply with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) regulations and policies and any changes occurring for school meals including the meal pattern requirements.
★	The Director of Food Service and Food Service Coordinator will ensure that the school will claim meals provided to eligible students using accurate counting and claiming methods. Additionally, the number of free and reduced-price meals served and claimed for reimbursement must have adequate documentation on file to support the claim.
	The Director of Food Services and Food Service Coordinator will proactively plan and be prepared throughout the year for expedited meal access during a short period (2-5 days) and a longer period (2 weeks or more) of closure.
★	The Director of Food Service will oversee Chartwells use of PPE for food service operations such as masks, gloves, physical barriers in serving areas, etc.
★	The Food Service Coordinator will create a system for onsite students to order lunch.
★	The Food Service Coordinator will create a system for free or reduced-price eligible students who remain offsite to order and pick up lunch.
★	The District requests that all lunch payments be made through MyPaymentsPlus. Cash and checks will also be accepted, if necessary.
2. Food service in the school will be designed to promote social distancing.	
★	The Food Service Coordinator working with the Principal will determine the appropriate meal distribution method (Classroom Delivery Model) of meal service based on social distancing, physical location, student traffic, space, staffing, etc.
★	Bethany Community School will communicate age-appropriate and school appropriate strategies to families about school meal service and options. Meal service communications will include social distancing requirements, serving meals in classrooms, and alternate locations.
	School cafeteria and meal service plans will be adjusted based on the level of concern of transmission.
★	All classroom desks will be cleaned following the lunch period.
	Sufficient trash removal will be provided in a timely fashion.
3. Meal Planning.	
	During the first month of school, at a minimum, four bagged cold lunch options will be offered. This plan will be reevaluated prior to the addition of hot lunch options.





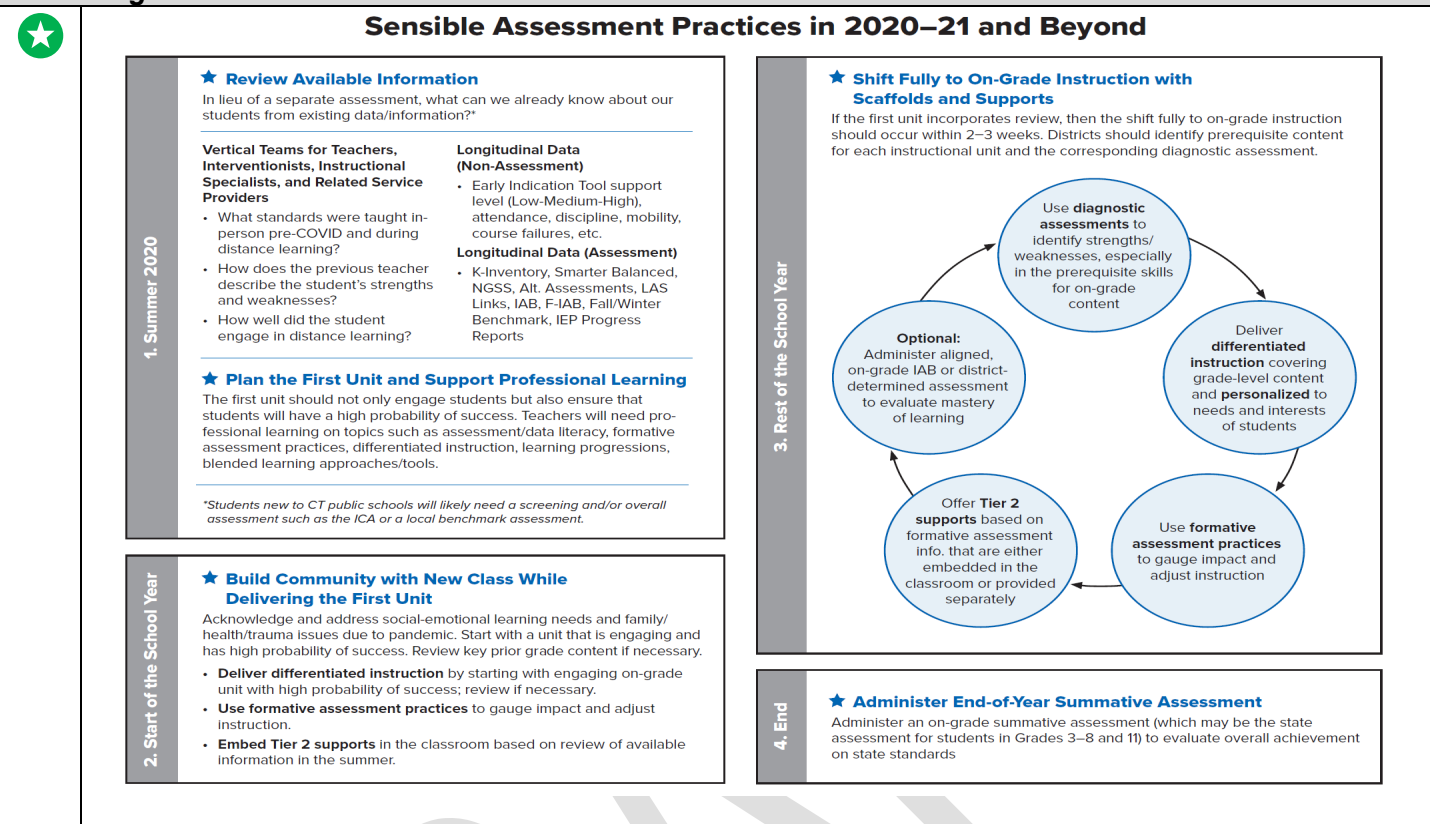
Instruction Checklist

The **Classroom Cohort Model** will be used in Grades PK - 6. A Cohort is a stable group of students and educators with consistent members that stay together throughout the school day to help mitigate the risk of spreading the virus. It is still expected that students & individuals within the cohorts maintain as much physical distance as possible. The classroom cohort will spend as much of the day together as a group as possible with a single teacher or with teachers of different subject areas meeting the cohort in the cohort's assigned classroom(s).

Instructional expectations for reopening Bethany Community School	
1. The instructional day and building schedules may be modified to meet the current health situation.	
★	The Superintendent and Principal will communicate to staff and families any schedule adjustments in the event that the State cancels in-person classes or restricts attendance requiring the implementation of the school's plan for a Hybrid Model.
★	The decision to suspend classes or close the school will be made by the Superintendent in collaboration with the QVHD, the school medical advisor, DPH, and CSDE.
★	The Superintendent will notify the CSDE when considering a school closure decision.
	The Principal will review current instructional schedules and make any modifications necessary to reopen and best meet the needs of students and staff members for a full return to school.
	The Principal will be prepared to amend schedules as necessary due to increased transmission in the school and/or the community. Alternate "Surge" Models will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 50%/50% Hybrid Models for a moderate increase in transmission including A-B Student Cohorts on alternating days.• Remote Learning for a large increase in transmission.
★	The Principal and teachers will proactively plan and be prepared at all times throughout the year for an expedited shift to Remote Learning instruction during a required short period (2-5 days) and a longer period (2 weeks or more) of closure.
★	The Principal and IT Director will proactively plan and be prepared at all times throughout the year for expedited technology access/support for a required period of Remote Learning including a short period (2-5 days) and a longer period (2 weeks or more) of closure.
★	The Director of Curriculum & Instruction will consult and share resources for teaching in a Remote Learning environment that is both synchronous and asynchronous which can be found in the Plan to Reimagine CT Classrooms for Continuous Learning and the CT Remote Learning Hub .
	The school will evaluate and adapt any revised models of instruction throughout the year with all educational partners and staff.
★	The Principal will review teacher rosters and develop a substitute plan. The Superintendent, along with the Board, will discuss stipends/changes in pay required to support the needs of the students and schools, if necessary.
2. The Principal will group students in Classroom Cohorts in Grades PK - 6, as much as possible.	
★	Classroom cohorts will be established and use the same classroom every day and for the most part utilize the same hallways, bathrooms, and other areas of the school as much as possible. Cohorts will be assigned a team of teachers and support personnel.
★	The Principal and teachers will educate students, families, and staff on the value of cohorts, ensuring they understand that other health and safety guidelines remain important to minimize the risk of infection.
★	The Principal and teachers will restrict the mixing of cohorts for the start of the school year as much as possible.
★	Teachers will push into the cohort classrooms as much as possible for academic support and special courses including art, library, and Spanish resulting in teachers of specific content areas rotating through the building. Physical education and music classes will take place in the gymnasium, cohort classroom, and/or outdoors to the greatest extent possible.
	Students in each cohort will have assigned seating and materials in the cohort classroom as much as possible.
★	The Principal will create schedules, as possible, that stagger passing in the hall by adjusting schedules to ensure students change rooms, if necessary, at different times.

3.	All learning experiences will be reviewed to ensure safe and appropriate instructional practices.
	The Principal will oversee all learning experiences and any curricular modifications to provide safe environments for students and teachers.
	The Director of Curriculum & Instruction will oversee all learning experiences and any curricular modifications to provide an appropriate, high standard of learning for students and teachers.
	Activities that may involve risk to students and staff such as singing and playing instruments will be approved in advance by the Director of Curriculum & Instruction and the Superintendent.
	School assemblies, concerts, and other programs with a larger number of participants will be limited at the start of the school year and will require the approval of the Superintendent. Decisions will be made based on the size of activity, ability to maintain proper distancing, and safety expectations.
	Field trips and off-campus experiences will be cancelled at the start of the school year. Future decisions will be made based on the ability to maintain proper distancing and safety expectations as directed by state guidelines. Virtual field trips will be encouraged.
4.	The Principal and the Curriculum Team will work with the Director of Curriculum & Instruction to identify learning gaps, learning barriers, and find innovative ways to meet the needs of children.
	Diagnostic assessments will be used to identify specific areas where instruction or intervention may be needed to improve student learning.
	Formative assessments and progress monitoring will take place during lessons and provide actionable information about students' learning status relative to the desired lesson goal.
	Teachers will use data from benchmark and formative assessments to adjust their instruction and ensure students' progress towards learning goals.
	School teams will develop common diagnostic, formative, and summative assessment tools for comparative analysis to identify specific targeted student learning needs.
	The Principal, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, and the Curriculum Team will refine the school's multi-tiered system of support and include guidance for implementing Tier 1 strategies before offering Tier 2 interventions and when and how to offer Tier 2 and Tier 3 supports.
	The Principal, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, and the Curriculum Team will identify and plan for grade-level data team cycles including reviewing student assessments, planning instructional shifts and strategies based on data, and establishing clear outcome goals.
	The Special Education Team will oversee appropriate accommodations for students and share innovative ways to meet unique student needs with teachers.
5.	Utilize data to ensure that all children are performing at grade level by the end of the 2020-2021 school year.
	The school will share learning goals that are clearly established and shared with students and families.
6.	The State of Connecticut will develop a Remote Learning Model for learning at home due to medical concern, illness, quarantine, or other reasons.
	The District will conduct a survey to gather information on which students plan to participate in In-Person Learning, Homebound, Home Learning, or Home Schooling.
	The Principal, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, and the Curriculum Team will oversee supports provided to students in the appropriate Learning Model. The CT Learning Hub will provide high quality, high impact resources from experts in the field for academic content, social, emotional health, and well-being.

7. The school will base assessment practices for 2020-2021 on the Connecticut Department of Education model found in *Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together*.



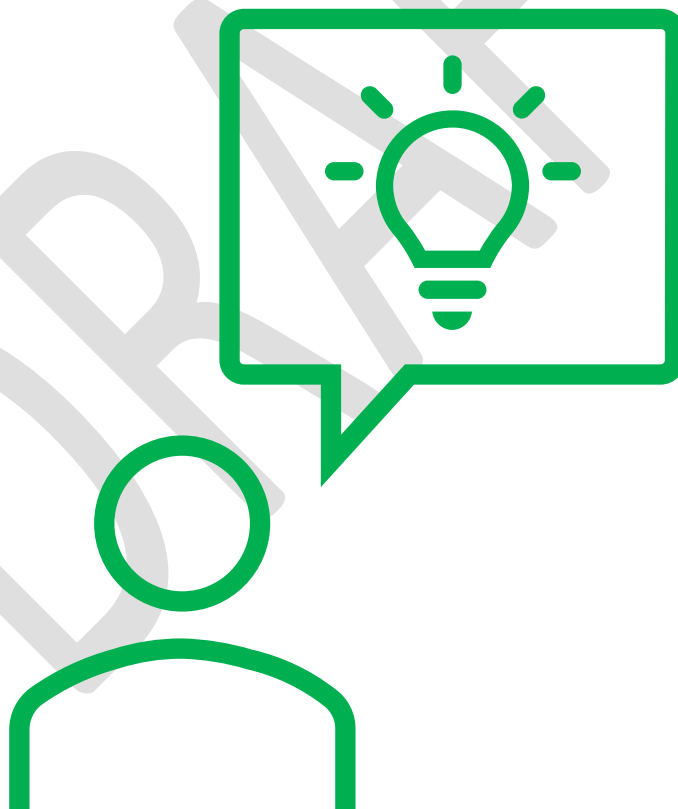
8. The Director of Special Services, Special Education Educators, and Guidance Counselor will oversee the programming and transition back to school for all students with IEPs.

- ★ The school will oversee programming for the Fall with the understanding that there has been no waiver of requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for the provision of a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). During the Spring of 2020 closure, the school may not have been able to provide all services in the same manner that were typically provided. Federal disability law allows for flexibility in determining how to meet the individualized needs of students receiving special education services.
- ★ The school will treat students eligible for special education and other special populations as general education students first. Guidance and policies related to school reopening plans apply to all students, including students with special needs who qualify for individual education programs under IDEA and accommodation plans for eligible students under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If students with disabilities are unable to access the District's reopening plan as designed, or facilitate individualized and alternative means of re-entry based upon student need, present levels of functioning, or developmental levels, in collaboration with a parent, consideration should be made for a Remote Learning schedule.
- ★ Programming decisions will not be based on a student's disability category. However, the nature and/or severity of a student's disability may require unique considerations. Protocols should consider the student's developmental level and skills.
- ★ The Special Education Team will collaborate with families of students who demonstrate a high level of need to develop transition plans in order to successfully return to school.
- ★ The Director of Curriculum & Instruction and English as a Second Language teacher will work with English Learner students assuring the provision of FAPE.

9. The Director of Curriculum & Instruction and the Principal will oversee the safe implementation of physical education, art, music, and extracurricular activities.

- ★ All educational programming in physical education, art, and music will be expected to adhere to all CDC, state, and local guidelines related to social distancing and disinfecting areas and equipment.
- ★ The Director of Curriculum & Instruction and the Principal will work with teachers to plan for physical education, fine arts, and music curricula that consider the needs of all students, including focusing on activities, adaptations, and modifications of all educational activities to ensure the full inclusion by all students.

★	Physical education, at all levels, will focus as much as possible on activities, fitness, exercises, and sports that are teacher-led but performed individually and focus on lifetime fitness, utilizing alternative environments, land-based activities, and individual sports/activities.
★	Physical education activities will assist as much as possible in the support of social-emotional learning.
★ ★ ★	<p>Music and art classes will strive to utilize the following safety precautions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Music will maintain proper spacing of at least 12 feet when students are singing or performing wind instruments by scheduling large ensembles in auditoriums, outdoors, cafeterias, gymnasiums, or other large spaces. Focus on maximizing distancing for instruments that require blowing or for singing, compared with string and percussion instruments. ★ Schedule large ensembles into smaller groups throughout the day. Shift curriculum focus to solo and small ensemble work and create virtual performance experiences and assessments. ★ Continue full access to beginning instrumental music. Maintain small homogeneous groupings of instruments for lesson instruction. ★ Provide individual art supply kits for each student or plan for increased sanitization between all uses. ★ Use online apps or platforms for student artwork (e.g., SeeSaw, Google Classroom, Flip Grid), video displays (e.g., YouTube), and slides (e.g., Google Slides, PowerPoint).





Social/Emotional Growth Checklist

While much uncertainty surrounds how and when school will reopen, we know that social and emotional learning (SEL) will be critical to re-engaging students, supporting adults, rebuilding relationships, and creating a foundation for academic learning. This unprecedented shift to a new type of learning experience may have a lasting and profound impact on young people's academic, social, emotional, and life outcomes. School leaders will need to bring together administrators, teachers, school staff, families, youth, and community partners to co-create supportive learning environments where all students and adults can enhance their social and emotional competencies, feel a sense of belonging, heal, and thrive.

From “*Leveraging the Power of Social and Emotional Learning*” (casel.org)

Social/Emotional expectations for reopening Bethany Community School	
1. The Director of Special Services, SEL Reopening Subcommittee, and SEL Steering Committee will ensure the inclusion of Social/Emotional Learning at BCS to benefit the entire school community.	
★	Plan for experiences that ensure that the school places adult and student wellness first to establish a positive, safe, and supportive learning environment.
	Identify strategies to engage populations and specific students that have been disengaged.
	Develop programming designed to help children and adults in the school community manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.
	Plan for SEL that is integrated into academic content by building essential self-management skills, resilience, and connections.
	Within the first 6 - 8 weeks of school, assess the social and emotional support needed by the students during the initial reopening period as a result of the Distance Learning period. Encourage that all parties reflect on the students' ability to navigate the unprecedented challenges of the alternative learning contexts during Remote Learning.
2. Coordinate SEL activities prior to the reopening of school.	
★	Communicate to all stakeholders that SEL is foundational to the holistic success of the entire school community and a necessary aspect of a highly functioning organization.
	Seek the voices of perspectives of students, families, educators, and other adults to develop responsive transition plans. Engage directly with staff and families to provide activities to help them feel comfortable back in the school.
	Engage the staff in reflecting on what they have learned from the Spring of 2020 and how this experience will shape the coming year for them and their students.
★	Provide professional development as available prior to the start of school. Share resources on SEL, including the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) publication, “ <i>Leveraging the Power of Social and Emotional Learning</i> .”
3. Integrate SEL activities into the reopening process.	
★	Consider how staff can coordinate to check in regularly with a small group of students and families and how the counselor, school psychologists, and school nurse can connect with students and families before schools reopen.
	Intentionally build structures that promote supportive adult-student relationships and a sense of belonging. Ensure every student has at least one caring adult at the school who checks in regularly with them and whom they can reach out to.
	Develop a plan to provide non-academic-focused check-ins with students.
	Create exercises/lessons on alternative ways to communicate feelings given that wearing masks may alter the understandings of how individuals are feeling.
	Create exercises/lessons on positively communicating the need for physical distancing in the classroom as children naturally hug, touch, etc. when playing.
	Help staff with strategies to handle students' and/or families' varied understandings of physical distancing measures by school personnel.
	Coordinate with staff the best ways to assist students who need additional support to physically distance or who may not be able to wear a mask due to a manifestation of their disability.

	Coordinate with staff the best ways to support the movement to ensure children are expending adequate energy. As student movement from classroom to classroom or recess activities are restricted, there may not be as many opportunities for physical activity during the school day. Assist staff in building in transition activities that allow for movement and ways in which to adjust recess activities.
	Weave in opportunities for students to practice and reflect upon social and emotional competencies throughout the day.
	Assist staff in engaging students in developmentally appropriate conversations and lessons to discuss past, current, and future impacts of the pandemic on themselves, their families, their communities, and the broader world. Include discussions that will elevate racial consciousness as students were not present together in school during recent events in the U.S.
4. Integrate SEL practices into instructional planning.	
	<p>Bethany Community School has established District goals for 2020-2025 that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes physical health and an active lifestyle, emotional health and resilience, and social well-being. • Develops and implements a plan for integrating social emotional learning across settings and grade levels to leverage resources and increase effectiveness. • Researches and implements trauma-informed best practices in the classroom. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>From Bethany Public School District's Strategic Plan 2020-2025</i></p>

The coming months will mark continued transitions for everyone in school communities as they prepare for an academic year that offers new types of relationships, learning, and operations. The transition may bring excitement, anxiety, concern, and other complex emotions as students wonder what the return to classrooms will look like, anticipate reconnecting with peers and teachers, and look forward to engaging in person in supportive learning environments. This moment will also call upon educators to intentionally and relentlessly foster emotional and physical safety and a sense of belonging throughout their school community.

High-quality SEL implementation provides students and adults an opportunity to continue cultivating critical skills—such as empathy and compassion, self-regulation, stress management, communication, collaboration—that they will need not only to manage their experiences during the pandemic but also to be caring, contributing members of their communities. SEL can also help educators reflect on how this experience has shaped our understanding of what and how we teach in schools, as well as the conditions that fully and equitably support student learning.

From “Leveraging the Power of Social and Emotional Learning” (casel.org)





Professional Development Checklist

Professional development expectations for reopening Bethany Community School

1. The School Nurse will oversee training on the physical protection of the school community throughout the school year.



The school will provide required training throughout the school year:

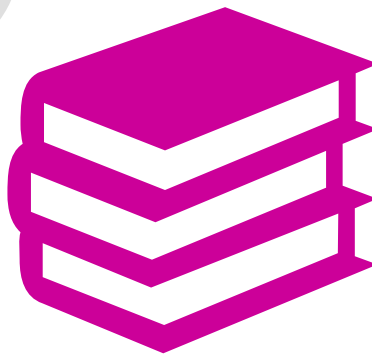
- Physical distancing of staff and students.
- Symptom screening including temperature checks.
- Proper use of personal protective equipment.
- Coughing and sneezing etiquette.
- Keeping one's hands away from one's face.
- Frequent handwashing and proper technique.
- Confidentiality around health recording and reporting

2. Staff training on the mental health wellness of students will be available throughout the school year.

The school will provide staff training on trauma-informed practices and suicide prevention, in addition to SEL expectations.

3. Staff training on topics related to the pandemic crisis will be offered prior to the start of the school year.

- Universal Safety Precautions.
- Handwashing.
- How to Wear a Mask.
- HIPAA.
- Anaphylaxis & Anaphylactic Shock.
- FERPA.
- Mandated Reporter.
- Suicide Prevention.
- Trauma-Informed Instruction (CBH).
- Social Emotional Learning (students and faculty).
- Technology (Google classroom, Zoom, etc.).
- Equity, Anti-bias & Diversity.





Operations & Policy Checklist

Operations and policy expectations for reopening Bethany Community School

1. The Board of Education Executive Assistant (BOE EA) oversees the Operational focus areas of the reopening plan.

Coordinate with each operational subcommittee chair to assist in developing proposals to guide the reopening of school decisions.

2. Board of Education Policy and Administrative Regulation Review.

The BOE EA will review Board Policies and Administrative Regulations to recommend the adoption, revision, or suspension of existing documents as they pertain to the pandemic emergency to the Superintendent. If necessary, the BOE EA will consult with legal counsel.

The Board Policy Subcommittee will convene to review the Superintendent's recommendations to present to the Committee of the Whole.

The Committee of the Whole will vote to accept the policies as presented.

3. Human Resources will gather information to inform staffing and personnel decisions.

The District will survey staff and students regarding their intentions to return to school.

The BOE EA will review staff responses to determine leave provision eligibility. If necessary, the BOE EA will consult with legal counsel.

Based on their findings the BOE EA will consult with the Superintendent to make personnel decisions.



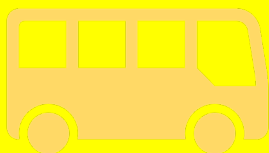


Transportation Checklist



CONNECTICUT SAFE STATUS

Vaccine available or effective treatments for COVID-19



CONNECTICUT LOW STATUS

Low transmission risk in the community of COVID-19



CONNECTICUT MODERATE STATUS

Moderate or more severe spread of COVID-19

Full Capacity on Bus

Bus transportation can operate with no restrictions.

Up to Full Capacity on Bus

Bus transportation can operate up to full status with face covering/mask requirements and loading/unloading restrictions



This is the status for the beginning of school.

Limited Capacity on Bus

Bus transportation can operate with seating and spacing restrictions, face covering/mask requirements and loading/unloading restrictions

Reduced Number of Students

Seating based on strict social distancing guidelines

Transportation expectations for reopening Bethany Community School

1. Transportation status will be determined by the State of Connecticut and/or Department of Health.

★ In the "**low status**" currently determined to be the status of Connecticut, student passengers will be required to wear a face covering or mask that completely covers the nose and mouth during transit. The rider's face covering must be in place prior to boarding the bus and must be kept in place until they are completely off the bus. Passengers should load into the bus from the back row to the front (where the first passengers onto the bus sit in the back row) and then unload the bus in a controlled manner upon arrival at the school from front to back by seat. This will reduce the number of passengers walking by as they get on the bus and will prevent crowding in the center aisle when the bus arrives for unloading.

★ If the state determines that we are in a "**moderate status**" student passenger density will be significantly reduced because schools will be employing a Hybrid Model of learning (A-B days) when in this status. Bus passengers should be spaced with family members sitting together and non-family members should be spaced 6 feet apart utilizing alternating diagonal seating. Passengers will be required to wear a face covering or mask that completely covers the nose and mouth during transit. The rider's face covering must be in place prior to boarding the bus and must be kept in place until they are completely off the bus. Students should load into the bus from the back row to the front (where the first passengers onto the bus sit in the back row) and then unload the bus in a controlled manner upon arrival at the school from front to back by seat. This will reduce the number of people passengers pass by as they get on the bus and will prevent crowding in the center aisle when the bus arrives for unloading.

2. Transportation to and from school by parents will be encouraged.

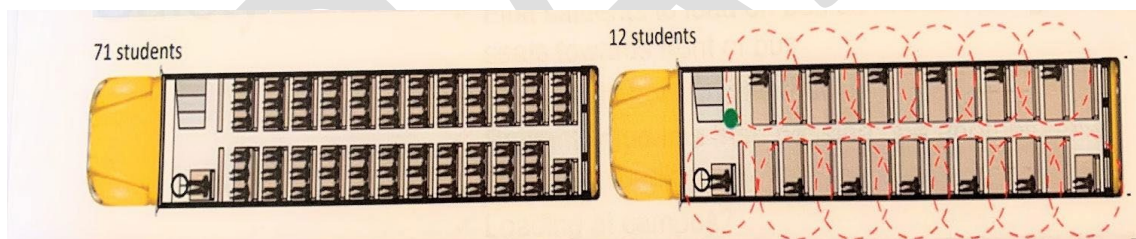
To assist in social distancing, parents are encouraged to voluntarily choose to transport their children to and from school every day and choose not to utilize bus transportation. The District will require a commitment from parents prior to the start of school and will require one week's notice to resume bus transportation after making the decision to drive every day.

★	The Superintendent and Principal will conduct a survey to find out which students will be transported by parents prior to the start of the school year.
★	The Principal will assess if staggered arrival and drop off times of buses and cars will enhance safety protocols.
★	The Principal will plan traffic flow and logistics, particularly if more family transport vehicles are expected.
★	The Principal will develop arrival/departure procedures that prohibit the entrance of parents/guardians into the building. The school will allow for minimal contact of parents with school staff and students while dropping off and/or picking up students during the day.
	Parents/guardians dropping off or picking up students on campus must wear a face covering or mask.
3. Proper hygiene habits will be practiced on the bus.	
	Parents will be asked to assist their children in social distancing at bus stops and during pick-up and drop-off.
	Parents will be asked to ensure that their child's face covering or mask is secure at the bus stop prior to getting on the bus.
★	Students MUST wear a face covering or mask that completely covers the nose and mouth during transit.
	The District will schedule a bus monitor on each bus to and from school to assist students with new protocols for the first 5 days of school.
★	Seating arrangements will be adjusted on buses to prevent students from passing one another while loading/unloading as much as possible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First students to load on bus sit in back, filling seats toward the front of the bus • Students in front unload first • Loading process at school based on route to promote limited passing in aisles • Assigned seats will be considered for students in Grades PK-6, if necessary.
	The Principal and BCS staff will produce recorded videos to demonstrate safe bus protocols.
★	The transportation contractor will increase cleaning, and sanitizing for all vehicles and keep associated logs. Effectively communicate cleaning protocols to all staff, including measures to prevent harmful human exposure to chemicals.
	Touch points shall be wiped daily on each bus.
	Weekly cleaning shall include a deeper clean and if possible a disinfecting process without the excessive use of harmful chemicals.
4. Bus drivers will follow the expectations for school employees regarding health and screening.	
★	Passive Screening: Drivers are instructed to self-screen before leaving for school by checking to ensure temperatures below 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit and to observe for symptoms outlined by public health officials. Drivers are to stay at home if they are feeling sick, have any symptoms associated with COVID-19, or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.
★	Drivers with a temperature greater than 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit are not permitted to drive. Drivers will be allowed to return 24 hours after a fever has broken, or with a note from their medical provider, or with a documented negative COVID-19 test.
★	All drivers will sanitize hands upon entering buses.
★	All drivers MUST wear face masks while children are on the bus.
	The two seats on each side behind the driver will be left empty to promote social distancing.
5. Numbers of students on each bus will be confirmed by the State and/or by local health officials.	
	The school will ideally adjust schedules with as little impact as possible to meet transportation requirements. Bus routes will not initially be based on survey results from parents whether they will drive students to school, however, this information will be important if the State indicates that the number of students on buses must be reduced. If extra runs are required to accommodate students and distancing expectations, students will not be penalized for arriving late to school.

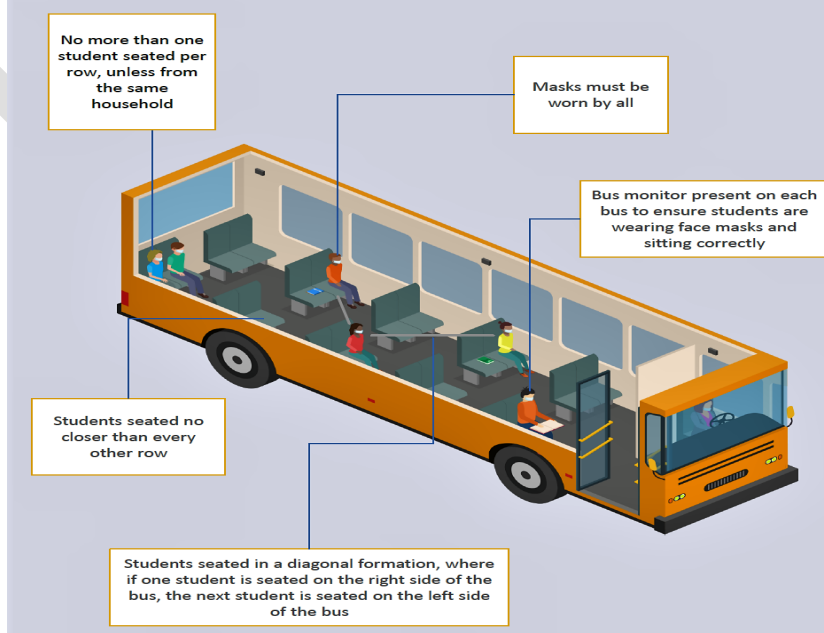
6. If the State of Connecticut needs to adjust social distancing guidelines due to a surge in COVID-19 adjustments will be necessary.

	<p>The school will limit the number of students on each bus based on guidelines issued by the State of Connecticut. Seating options include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seat one student to a bench on both sides of the bus. • Seat one student to a bench on both sides of the bus, skipping every other row. • Seat one student to a bench, alternating rows on each side, creating a zigzag pattern on the bus.
	<p>Bus populations may be adjusted as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Capacity • 35 students per bus • 24 students per bus • 12 students per bus <p>In each of these scenarios, there is a tremendous impact on classes with students arriving/departing at different times and the cost to put more buses on the road.</p>
	Reduced size bus runs will require adjusted bus routes resulting in “double runs” or “triple runs” causing staggered arrival and dismissal times for students.
	A bus monitor, employed by the District, will be assigned to each bus to ensure that students practice social distancing and face coverings/masks protocols for the first 5 days of school.
	<p>The school schedule may be adjusted to meet the needs of social distancing on buses based on guidelines issued by the State of Connecticut.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If numbers are limited, the schedule may result in the implementation of the hybrid model for students. • Adjusted State Guidelines may result in an extended period of Remote Learning for all students.

Adjustments to bus expectations by the State of Connecticut, if needed or imposed, will greatly impact school schedules and/or the ability to hold school in-person.



Above, a model from another state shared with the Association of School Business Officials.





Technology Checklist

Technology expectations for reopening Bethany Community School

1. Access to technology will be 1:1 for students in K - 6.

The IT Director and BOE EA will revise the Acceptable Use practice to address the new 1:1 initiative.

The IT Director and BOE EA will research and offer multiple options for insurance coverage to families to cover any damage or loss of a device.

2. The District operating budget supports school technology purchases.

- Chromebooks - \$20,000
- Software - \$11,000

3. Grant funds support additional school technology purchases.

- Chromebooks - \$30,000
- Digital Resources - \$10,000

4. Technology in PreK.

Devices for PreK students may be provided at the discretion of the Director of Special Services in consultation with PreK program staff.

5. Technology in Grades K – 2 will transition to “Mobile on the Moment.”

Students in Grades K - 2 will be provided a District owned device to take home during a school closure.

6. Technology in Grades 3 – 6 will become 24/7.



Students in Grades 3 - 6 will be **required** to use a District provided device both in school and at home on a daily basis.

7. Equitable and universal technology access will continue to be ensured.

The District will guarantee that every student has access to digital technology and provide resources for high-speed home Wi-Fi.

The District will explore a variety of Remote Learning platforms.

8. Technology support will be provided to staff and families.



An online technology help desk will be created and implemented for staff and family use.



The IT Director and support staff will provide in-person training and recorded videos to support users.

The IT Director and support staff will create a family and staff resource hub on the District website.





Pandemic Response Planning

Pandemic response planning for reopening Bethany Public School District



LITTLE or NO COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION

Minimal/No Spread of Virus
or Virus Contained

- Instruction is 100% in-person.
- Daily attendance rates monitored.
- Teaching and reinforcing of healthy hygiene.
- Prevention measures in place.
- Social distancing in place.
- Group gatherings/events limited; all require approval.
- Remain prepared for Remote Learning while learning is In-Person at school or Hybrid Learning takes place.
- Cleaning and disinfecting in place.
- Regular communication with QVHD and School Medical Advisor.



MINIMAL or MODERATE COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION

Moderate Spread of Virus
requires possible adjusted
schedule and adjusted
transportation

- Instruction is 100% in-person or 50%/50% Hybrid.
- Daily attendance rates monitored and shared with local health officials.
- Concentrated reinforcement of healthy hygiene.
- Heightened prevention measures in place.
- Heightened social distancing in place with limitations in activities/events.
- Group gatherings/events postponed.
- Active preparation for Remote Learning and/or short-term school closure resulting in possible Remote Learning for two-week periods.
- Intensified cleaning and disinfecting in place.
- Coordination of closure with State and/or QVHD.



SUBSTANTIAL COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION

High Spread of Virus
Requiring Quarantine

- Instruction is 100% Remote Learning.
- Attendance for Remote Learning is monitored based on participation from home.
- Communication to home on healthy hygiene practices.
- Quarantine measures in place for essential personnel.
- Communication to home on social distancing practices.
- All group gatherings/events cancelled.
- Continue engagement in Remote Learning during extended school closure for longer periods of time.
- Classroom and buildings disinfected and shut down.
- Order of closure from the Governor's Executive Order and/or from QVHD.

A confirmed case in the school building:

Assess risk with local health officials.

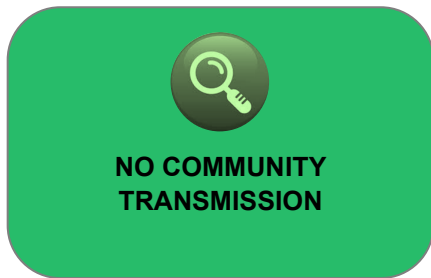
Plan for short (2-5 days) or longer (10 days) closure to clean, disinfect, and contact trace in consultation with the Quinnipiac Valley Health District.



**IN SCHOOL
TRANSMISSION**

Pandemic response for reopening Bethany Community School

1. The Bethany Pandemic Response includes a tiered response for school attendance based on transmission in the community and/or in the school.






Community transmission of COVID-19 will impact the school's planning, operations, and instruction as indicated in the chart above. (Detailed schedules included earlier in this reopening packet).

2. The Bethany Pandemic Response includes for an immediate response for a confirmed diagnosis in the school.



IN SCHOOL TRANSMISSION

- If a student, staff member, or preapproved visitor has a **confirmed diagnosis** of COVID-19, the School Nurse and the school Principal/Compliance Liaison will contact the Superintendent. In addition, school staff will notify the Superintendent that a student is suspected of being sick while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- The Superintendent will notify QVHD and the School Medical Advisor immediately.
- The QVHD will assess risk of further transmission in the school.
- Under the advice of QVHD and/or the State of Connecticut, decisions are made concerning:
 - Contact tracing
 - Closure
 - Cleaning
 - Continuity of Education
 - Reopening of School
- The decision to suspend or close the school will be made by the Superintendent in collaboration with QVHD, the School Medical Advisor, Department of Public Health and the State Department of Education.
- Board of Education members and Town Officials are notified of closure as well as the State Department of Education.
- The school will likely implement a short-term closure (2-5 days) or longer regardless of community spread if an infected person has been in the school building. The CDC recommends dismissal of students and most staff for 2-5 days. This initial short-term dismissal allows time for the local health officials to gain a better understanding of the COVID-19 situation impacting the school. This allows the Superintendent, in consultation with local health officials, to determine appropriate next steps, including whether an extended dismissal duration is needed to stop or slow further spread of COVID-19.
- All communications to the school community, including staff and families, are made in collaboration with the QVHD and the Superintendent.
- During a school closure, all extracurricular activities, athletics, and school-based afterschool programs are canceled.

3.	As part of the Bethany Pandemic Response, the Superintendent is authorized to make immediate decisions for the safety of the students and staff.
	The Superintendent may exclude staff and/or students who exhibit signs or symptoms of COVID-19. Documentation from a healthcare provider attesting to a negative COVID-19 test must be provided before the return to work/school.
	If informed, the Superintendent will require any staff or student to quarantine if they have traveled to a high-risk area or have had close contact with a person who has tested positive to COVID-19. Documentation from a healthcare provider attesting to a negative COVID-19 test must be provided before the return to work/school.
	The Superintendent may suspend any activity or program at any time due to health and safety risks.
	The Superintendent may suspend in-person classes at any time due to health and safety risks.
4.	There will be a coordinated effort to ensure that students and staff take everyday preventive actions to prevent and mitigate the spread of respiratory illnesses.
	<p>The Superintendent and Principal will develop a strong communication program, “Keeping our School Open” encouraging all parties to stay home when sick or feeling sick, appropriately covering coughs and sneezes, practicing social distancing, cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces, and washing hands often with soap and water or using hand sanitizer.</p> 
5.	Communication guidelines are established according to the appropriate transmission tiers or an in-school case.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily to weekly communication will be shared with staff and families concerning the status of the school’s reopening efforts and continuing safety efforts. • The District’s website, newsletters, Facebook page, and letters home will address prevention efforts, updated information from local, state, and national authorities and publications from the QVHD as materials become available. • Information will be made available to parents and community members if the school building is designated or participates as a vaccination site.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily to weekly communication will be shared with staff and families concerning the status of the school’s continuing safety efforts. • The District’s website, newsletters, Facebook page, and letters home will address prevention efforts, updated information from local, state, and national authorities and publications from the QVHD as materials become available. • Administration will update and share information on moving to the Hybrid Model (50% of students) and procedures for any adjusted schedules. • Parents of students who are absent from school will be called to confirm the reason for the student’s absence whether for COVID-19 related symptoms, preventative measures, or any other reason. • Staff who are absent from work will be called to confirm the reason for their absence whether for COVID-19 related symptoms, preventative measures, family care, or any other reason. • Provide information and education to staff, students, and families regarding pandemic flu, prevention measures, and school protocols, updates, and community resources.



- The District's website, newsletters, Facebook page, and letters home will address prevention efforts, updated information from local, state, and national authorities and publications from the QVHD as materials become available.
- Administration will update and share information regarding Remote Learning plans and procedures for school closure as students transition to learning at home.
- Parents of students who are absent from school will be called to confirm the reason for the student's absence whether for COVID-19 related symptoms, preventative measures, or any other reason.
- Staff who are absent from work will be called to confirm the reason for their absence whether for COVID-19 related symptoms, preventative measures, family care, or any other reason.



- A confirmed case of COVID-19 in the school building will require immediate communication with QVHD, resulting in a determination of the length of the school closure.
- Communication through the District's website, Facebook page, text, and email notification system will be sent immediately to all staff and families, as well as to local and state officials informing them that the District is shutting down for a time period to be determined.
- The Town of Bethany's Code Red Emergency Notification System will be utilized to notify the community of the school closure.



Reopening Our School Resources

Please note that sections of this document have been taken from or based on the following sources:

- **“Adapt, Advance, Achieve” Connecticut’s Plan to Learn and Grow Together** - Connecticut State Department of Education
- **“Reopen Connecticut”** - Rules for operating Summer School during COVID 19 - State of Connecticut
- **“Preparing for a Safe Return to Classroom Learning”** - State of Connecticut
- **“Stronger Together”** - A Guidebook for the Safe Reopening of California’s Public Schools - California Department of Education
- **“Reopening our Schools”** – East Hampton Public School District, Connecticut
- **“Back to School RI”** - Reopening RI: Health and Safety Guidance - State of Rhode Island
- **“Guidance on Required Safety Supplies for Reopening Schools”** - Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- **“Initial Fall School Reopening Guidance”** - Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- **“Preliminary Guidance for Phased Reopening of Pre-K to 12 Schools”** - State of Pennsylvania Department of Education
- **K-12 Schools and Childcare Programs** - FAQs for Administrators, Teachers, and Parents - CDC.gov/coronavirus
- **Recommendations for Protections and Procedures Regarding Education and Connecticut’s Public Schools** – Connecticut Education Association, CEA
- **Leveraging the Power of Social and Emotional Learning** - Available at https://casel.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/CASEL_Leveraging-SEL-as-You-Prepare-to-Reopen-and-Renew.pdf

Reopening Our School References

- 1 Leclerc, Q. J., Fuller, N. M., Knight, L. E., Funk, S., Knight, G. M., & CMMID COVID-19 Working Group. (2020). What settings have been linked to SARS-CoV-2 transmission clusters?. *Wellcome Open Research*, 5(83), 83. Available at <https://wellcomeopenresearch.org/articles/5-83/v2>
- 2 National Centre for Immunization Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) (2020). COVID-19 in schools – the experience in NSW. Available at [http://ncirs.org.au/sites/default/files/2020-04/NCIRS%20NSW%20Schools%20COVID Summary FINAL%20public 26%20April%202020.pdf](http://ncirs.org.au/sites/default/files/2020-04/NCIRS%20NSW%20Schools%20COVID%20Summary%20FINAL%20public%2026%20April%202020.pdf)
- 3 Davies, N.G., Klepac, P., Liu, Y. et al. Age-dependent effects in the transmission and control of COVID-19 epidemics. *Nat Med* (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-020-0962-9>
- 4 Coronavirus Disease 2019 in Children — United States, February 12–April 2, 2020. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2020;69:422–426. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6914e4>
- 5 <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting>
- 6 Davies, N.G., Klepac, P., Liu, Y. et al. Age-dependent effects in the transmission and control of COVID-19 epidemics. *Nat Med* (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-020-0962-9>
- 7 Viner, R. M., Mytton, O. T., Bonell, C., Melendez-Torres, G. J., Ward, J. L., Hudson, L., ... & Panovska-Griffiths, J. (2020). Susceptibility to and transmission of COVID-19 amongst children and adolescents compared with adults: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *medRxiv*. Available at <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.05.20.20108126v1>
- 8 Wei Li, Bo Zhang, Jianhua Lu, Shihua Liu, Zhiqiang Chang, Cao Peng, Xinghua Liu, Peng Zhang, Yan Ling, Kaixiong Tao, Jianying Chen, Characteristics of Household Transmission of COVID-19, *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, ciaa450, <https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciaa450>
- 9 Zhu, Y., Bloxham, C. J., Hulme, K. D., Sinclair, J. E., Tong, Z. W. M., Steele, L. E., ... & Gilks, C. (2020). Children are unlikely to have been the primary source of household SARS-CoV-2 infections. Available at <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.03.26.20044826v1>
- 10 Mannheim, J., Gretschi, S., Layden, J. E., & Fricchione, M. J. (2020). Characteristics of Hospitalized Pediatric COVID-19 Cases—Chicago, Illinois, March–April 2020. *Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society*. Available at <https://academic.oup.com/jpids/advance-article/doi/10.1093/jpids/piaa070/5849922>

Please note that all guidance and plans included in this document are subject to change based on requirements and/or advice from the Governor of Connecticut, the Connecticut State Department of Education, and the Quinnipiac Valley Health District.

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Staff, parents, and community members will be invited to participate in the Reopening BCS Webinar in late July. Meeting information will be shared via text and email and posted on the District website.