Bethany Public School District

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Dear BCS Community,

There continues to be an abundance of statewide information in the media about the reopening of schools. We also know that as parents, you are looking for updates about our ongoing work for the reopening of BCS. Our administrators and staff are working hard in all the critical areas of our reopening work. In an effort to keep you updated on statewide and local information, please see the information below:

1. **Recent Addendums to the State Guidance on School Reopening:**
   The state has recently released further guidance in three important areas:
   - ***Temporarily Opting into Voluntary Remote Learning Due to COVID-19***
   - ***COVID Guidance and Considerations for Preschool Located in Public Schools***
   - ***Fall Reopening Resource Document for Students with High Needs***

2. **State Guidance On Decision-Making for Reopening:**
   The state has just released an addendum that provides information and guidance to local districts on decision making for the reopening of schools.

   Interim Guidance for Decision-Making Regarding the Use of In-Person, Hybrid (Blended), or Remote Learning Models

3. **Updates to Parents on BCS Reopening:**
   As you know, we aired an informational Reopen BCS Webinar and accompanying PowerPoint. We are working on the FAQ document as promised and will post to the website as soon as possible. We've heard from many parents that the webinar information presented was helpful, yet we recognize that many may still have additional questions. In our continuing efforts to provide the most up-to-date information, I will provide a reopening update to the Board of Education at a Special Board meeting on Tuesday, August 4th at 6:30 PM. The meeting will take place at BCS in the gymnasium. Attendees must enter the gym directly from the outside in the back of the school (near the basketball/tennis courts). There will not be access into the building from any other entry point. All attendees must wear a mask. The gymnasium will be set up to accommodate social distancing. Hand sanitizer will be available, temperatures will be checked, a COVID-19 questionnaire available, and a designated bathroom. There is also a regular Board of Meeting scheduled for the following week on August 8th at 6:30 PM where updates on the Reopen Plan will be shared as well. Both meetings will be recorded and put on the District website for access at another time if you are unable to attend in person. We will follow up as needed to provide additional information as we close in on the reopening date.

4. **Survey:**
   We are in the process of constructing a parent survey that will be sent out in the near future for you to communicate your plans for sending your child to school in the fall. Based on current state guidance and metrics on infection levels, Bethany Community School plans for a full reopening as well as a Remote Learning option. In the survey, parents will have the opportunity to choose whether they are:

   a. planning for their child(ren) to return to school In-Person, or
   b. choosing the Remote Learning Option from home that is being provided at this time.

   We recognize that you might still be undecided in regards to your final decision, but we need an initial commitment so that we can make necessary plans to complete classroom assignments and then let families know their child's teacher. In addition, we need to set up classrooms based on the number of children attending in-person, to ensure appropriate staffing, and to make further remote learning decisions. For these reasons, the survey cannot be anonymous. A final decision from parents/guardians will be needed by mid-August. We hope that once parents/guardians make their decisions for either in-person or remote learning for their child(ren) they will commit to that decision up to October 16th which aligns with our first instructional cycle.

As always, I appreciate your continued support and understanding during these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Colleen M. Murray
Superintendent