Bethany Public School District

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August 14, 2020

Dear BCS Community,

I hope everyone is safe and has had their power restored. It has been a very productive week on the BCS campus, as administrators and staff continue to prepare for the reopening of school. Based on the current low levels of transmission of COVID-19, less than 1%, (0 in Bethany), BCS is scheduled to open its doors for in-person learning this Fall in compliance with all recommended mitigating strategies. Plans are also in place for a remote learning experience that includes a mix of synchronous and asynchronous instruction for students whose parents choose for them to temporarily learn from home. Remember, if and when metrics regarding community indicators change, the District may be guided by local health officials to shift to either a Hybrid or Remote Learning Plan. Please refer to the Reopen BCS Plan for information on those learning plans and be prepared to make the transition at home with childcare plans, if necessary. On Wednesday, August 12th, I gave a very detailed report to the Board of Education on the reopening of school. If you were unable to attend the Board of Education Meeting, a recording of the meeting can be found on the District website.

Thank you to the 80% of families that completed the Back-to-School Survey last week. After tallying the results and reaching out to families that weren't able to complete the survey, our response rate increased to 93%. Of those families that responded or who were contacted, 82% plan on sending their children to school in-person. Ninety-five percent (95%) of our families that will be accessing in-person learning in the Fall plan to continue with in-person if and when the District needs to transition into a Hybrid Model. In addition, 71% of our students plan on using bus transportation.

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) recently shared two new Addendums to its reopening plan: Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together. The new Addendums can be accessed by clicking the following links:

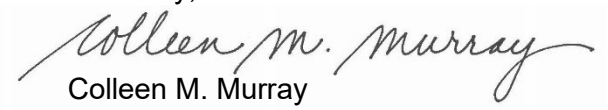
- #5 - Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios in Connecticut School Districts
  I strongly encourage staff and families to review all Addendums but especially Addendum #5 as it provides direction to school districts to follow, in collaboration with local health officials when a student or staff member has or develops: possible signs and symptoms of COVID-19; a diagnosis of COVID-19; or exposure to a person diagnosed with COVID-19.

- #6 - Reopening Guidance for Educating Students with Disabilities

Staff and families are also encouraged to review Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7III which mandates self-quarantine for travelers coming to Connecticut from states with high COVID-19 levels. Please refer to the State of Connecticut Travel Advisory Website for current information on "hotspot" states. Our School Medical Advisor and Quinnipiack Valley Health District have advised the District that any staff member, student, or family member that travels to a "hotspot" state or out of the country, must quarantine for 14 days before they can return to work or school at BCS. We are hopeful that all members of our school community will adhere to this guidance and not put themselves or anyone else at risk of infection. As noted in previous communications, the Bethany Public School District Website continues to be a source of ongoing communication and information.

Thank you for your continued support, understanding, and patience.

Sincerely,



Colleen M. Murray
Superintendent