

Beecher Road School

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August 25, 2020

Dear BRS Community,

I know this has been an unusual summer; but I sincerely hope that you have had time to enjoy some of the best parts of this warm season. The smell of honeysuckle and fresh-cut grass, a barbecue with loved ones around a table, a big scoop of ice cream on a hot day, time with a good book...for me these are some of the hallmarks of the season and even during the pandemic, my hope is that all of you got to experience them!

I'm writing because the school year is fast approaching, and I wanted to share with you some important dates and updates. The updates below are certainly not an exhaustive list, but rather serve as an opportunity for you to begin speaking with your child about some of the changes they will see when they return to Beecher. There will be some changes, but there will also be some things that are the same as well. One thing that remains the same is our excitement at welcoming your child back to school. More information will be forthcoming, so if your questions aren't answered here, please know that we will continue to communicate with you regularly. Of course, all updates and previously shared information can be found on our district website at this link: <https://www.woodbridge.k12.ct.us/teaching-and-learning/reopening-of-school>

Important dates:

September 8th: First day for students with the last name L-Z. Minimum day (1:10 dismissal).
September 9th: First day of students with the last name A-K. Minimum day (1:10 dismissal).
September 10th and 11th: All students report, minimum day.
September 14th: Full day of school. Extended day begins.
September 14th: Virtual Open House, all grades.
September 28th: No School, Yom Kippur

Additional updates:

- **Teacher assignment letters:** We know you (and your child!) are very interested to receive their teacher's names. We are working on finalizing staff placement and they will be mailed out soon. Meanwhile, supply lists can be found on our district website under the "About Beecher" tab under school forms and resources.
- **Starting the year:** This year we are starting a little different, with half of our students the first two days to learn procedures and minimum days (1:10 PM) the entire week.
 - September 8th: all students with **last names L-Z** will report to school in person, with an early dismissal day.

Our Mission

Beecher Road School is a caring, creative community that models and inspires the joy of life-long learning, embraces diversity, and celebrates the unique qualities of each person.

- September 9th: all students with **last names A-K** will report to school in person, with an early dismissal day.
 - The alphabetical organization of students was coordinated with Amity School District. Any families with children with different last names should follow the youngest child's last name schedule.
 - All remote learning students will receive information from their remote learning teacher and will engage in learning following an early dismissal schedule from Tuesday September 8th to Friday September 11th.
 - On September 14th, all students, both remote and in person, will begin full day instruction.
- **Ingress procedures:** We are changing our ingress and egress procedures to minimize hallway movement and maximize social distancing.
- All **buses** will be dropping students off at the North entrance. Buses will be unloaded one at a time, from the front to the back of the bus.
 - Students in **kindergarten and grade 1** classes facing the parking lot will enter the school building through their outer classroom doors. (This applies to the following teachers: Mrs. Grabowski (K), Mrs. Farnen (K), Mrs. CoFrancesco (K) and Mrs. Dempsey (K). Mrs. Thompson (1), Mrs. Fanelli (1) and Mr. McClain (1).
 - **All other Kindergarten, grade 1, 2, and MAG** students will enter the school building through the main front entrance on a staggered arrival to class
 - **Grades 3, 4, 5, and 6** will enter the school building through the cafeteria entrance on a staggered arrival to class.
 - Beecher faculty/staff will be assigned throughout the building to support ingress procedures.
 - All **parent drop offs** will enter the south school campus from the lower parking lot on Beecher Road.
 - **There will be no vehicular access to the north campus at all during AM/PM bus arrival/departure.**
 - Parents will drive up to the south entrance of the school building by going around the traffic circle and pulling up to the stop sign where faculty/staff will assist students in getting out of cars.
 - Students in **grade 4** will proceed up the stairs to D wing and enter the school building through the outer D wing door. Faculty/staff will be logistically placed along the sidewalk, at the top of the stairs and in D wing to welcome students.
 - All other students will immediately enter the school building through the south entrance where faculty/staff will be assigned in the hallways to monitor students in maintaining social distancing guidelines.
 - Once students leave cars, parents will proceed right at the stop sign, down the school driveway and out the lower lot onto Beecher Road leaving the school campus.
- **Egress procedures:**

- **Bus loading** will be staggered and only at the North entrance. All students will be loaded from back to front. We anticipate our bus procedure taking longer, and ask that you are patient during the first weeks of school as we adjust to our new procedures.
- **Parents will pick up** their child starting at 3:00 for grades K-3 and 3:15 for grades 4-6 unless students have siblings in the lower grades; in which case they will pick up starting at 3:00. On early dismissal days, this pick up procedure will start at 1:00.
- All students will be picked up at the South School entrance. Students will be staged in the South Assembly room, with the South Gym being used for overflow.
- We will have a contact-less pick up process. A parent will pull up to the South School entrance, stopping at the stop sign. We ask that you have your identification ready and that you place a piece of paper in your window with your child's name and grade level.
- A staff member will take the child's name and grade from the parent and immediately radio a staff member inside the building.
- Child's name will be called and the faculty/staff person assigned will retrieve that child and they will exit the building. The child's name will then be checked off of our dismissal list.
- We understand that this will take longer, but we do ask for your support and patience with our new procedures.
- **Lunch:** All students will be eating lunch in the classroom or outside while supervised by an adult staff member. Initially, lunch choices will be "cold"; for example, sandwiches, bento boxes and salads. Students wishing to purchase lunch will have an adult with them at all times to buy their lunch while maintaining social distancing practices. Please ensure that your My Payments Plus account has the necessary funds for school lunch purchases!
 - Water bottles are strongly recommended. Water fountains in the school will be turned off, however there are a number of water bottle refilling stations that are still available.
- **Mask breaks:** We understand that many are concerned about students wearing masks for the full day at school. We fully recognize that students will need mask breaks and we will be building those into our daily schedule. This will happen through scheduled breaks that occur outside as well as during snack and lunch time. The Outdoor Learning Committee has also identified many areas around our campus that can be utilized for mask breaks and learning opportunities. These outdoor learning areas will be clearly marked on a school map that will be shared with staff members.
- **Visitors to the building:** Non-essential or unscheduled visitors will not be permitted into the building. Parents who are attending required meetings such as PPTs or 504s will have the option of completing these meetings virtually or in person. Should they opt for in person, they will be required to respond to health related questions, wear masks and follow all social distancing guidelines. Any parent wishing to speak to a teacher or

administrator should contact them via email or phone call. If needed, a virtual meeting will be arranged.

- Conferences will be held virtually and arranged via phone or virtual meeting at a mutually agreed upon time with the classroom teacher.
- Open House will occur virtually and include a brief welcome video as well as information from the classroom teacher.
- **Social distancing:** Furniture, including rugs, have been removed from classrooms to maximize social distancing to the greatest extent possible. In addition, every student is being provided with a desk shield that is portable. All teachers will also have desk shields. Signs are posted in hallways and cafeteria to encourage social distancing as well.
- **Student devices:** As in the spring, any student who requests a school-issued device will be issued an iPad for use at home. In addition, there will be a dedicated help desk available for parents to access.
- **Videos:** We will be sharing a few videos with families that will highlight some of these new procedures. We ask that you share these videos with your child as a way to review expectations and prepare them for the year ahead.

We know that our school will look different. However, we also know that as challenging as this is, if we work together, we can support our children and create a learning environment that is filled with joy and curiosity, engagement and friendship. We are a family, and like all families, we will lean on one another to make it through this challenging time!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. You may reach me at: asherman@woodbridgeps.org or 203-389-2195.

Warmly,


Analisa Sherman