



2020-2021

Newsletter #20
January 25th-29th

Westport Schools COVID Reporting Hotline: if you've tested positive or have been directly exposed to a positive case, please call: 203-341-1016

**DISTANCE/REMOTE
LEARNING TECH HELP
CENTER LINK**

NEW ITEMS

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE: Transition from Hybrid to a Full-Open Model

Dear BMS Students, Parents and Guardians,

On Monday, February 1st, BMS will transition from the “[Hybrid](#) plus [Distance Learning](#) model” to the “[Full Open](#) plus Distance Learning model.” In the Hybrid model, BMS alone hosts approximately 325 students in school on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays; in the Full Open model, BMS will host 650 students in school on those days (representing students enrolled in Cohort A and Cohort B). BMS will add 100 students to the total in-school population when compared to the in-school population during the time the two schools were combined in the Hybrid model at BMS earlier this school year, which was 550 students.

In the Full Open model, the most significant impact will be an approximate doubling of the number of students within each classroom across all grades, courses and class sections. For example, if a class section consists of 28 students, and 4 are in the Distance Learning Cohort, the in-school student population is 24. In the Hybrid model, this class would be split in half again so the teacher would host 12 students distanced at 6 feet in their classroom, however, in the Full-Open model, the same classroom will host 24 students spaced at 3 feet. Therefore, since our ability to socially distance students and staff will be decreased by half, we must highlight and draw attention to the importance of proper protective face mask wearing by all students and staff at all times other than the daily outdoor mask break. Protective masks must be well-fitted to the face covering both nose and mouth and not have a through-port/vent. The CDC provides additional helpful information regarding the importance and efficacy of wearing protective face masks: [LINK](#). In addition, Westport schools will be providing protective desk shields throughout the school as another measure to mitigate virus transmission.

On Monday morning, I will welcome our students to the Full-Open BMS and share updated procedures designed to keep our student and staff safe and engaged in learning. Below are some of the highlights that will be shared with our students and will be followed up by the BMS teachers. Thank you for your support and patience; please reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely, Dr. Rosen

Lunch Waves

- All students have been assigned to a specific lunch table;
- All lunch tables will be fitted with plastic dividers (mitigating measure);
- There will be up to 4 students assigned to a lunch table spaced at 4-6 feet;
- Students may not self-select table mates or seats due to protocols in place for contact tracing.

- Special note: There will be no snacktime any longer starting the week of Feb 1st. due to the reduction in our ability to socially distance students in classrooms.

Mask Break/Recess Procedures

- Students are required to go outside for their daily mask break/recess;
- Masks are to be worn at all times on the blacktop: When students are on the blacktop, whether participating in active play, or observing and socializing, masks are to be worn. Masks may come off while on the concrete sidewalk and grass areas;
- Students may use basketballs and 4-Square balls; see Recess Equipment Hygiene below for details;
- Students should wash/disinfect their hands in school after engaging in play at recess; hand sanitizing stations are available in common areas throughout the schools.

Recess Equipment Hygiene

- Students that want to play basketball or 4-Square will be provided with a ball; students are to wipe-down the playground equipment at the start of recess;
- Wiping down the equipment at the start of recess is consistent with hygiene practice in our PE program and in classrooms where students wipe down their desks and equipment at the start of classes.

Bus Transportation

- Ridership will increase as a result of bringing both Cohort A and B students to school on the same days;
- Bus Drivers will automatically service every bus stop on their routes; there is no need to contact school or transportation dept.;
- Students must wear a face mask securely covering the nose and mouth for the entire bus ride without exception.

Safety and Security

- Cell phone use is not permitted during school
 - Please make sure you silence your cell phone and store it securely in your backpack for the duration of the school day. The only exception to this rule is when you have teacher permission for instructional purposes.
- Hats off, hoods down
 - For the safety and security of yourself and everyone in school, BMS does not permit students to wear hats or have their hoodies up
- No airpods/headphones/earbuds in the hallways
 - Students may not use or wear airpods/earbuds or headphones unless instructed to do so by a teacher for instructional purposes

ATTENTION Parent Drivers: We need your help!

Please pull all the way forward when dropping off your child in the morning. Also, please make certain your child is ready to get out of the car - curbside only - as soon as you pull all the way forward and stop. Please do not stand/wait in the drop-off line as it causes a ripple-effect all the way down the BMS driveway onto North Ave. Thank you for your help in keeping traffic flowing safely at BMS!

Announcing the PTA Reflections Art Contest Winners:

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's PTA Reflections Art Contest! The committee was so impressed with ALL of the entries and the artists made the judges' task very difficult. They are thrilled to announce the winners in each of the following categories:

- Dance Choreography – Nina Katz, BMS
- Film Production – Alexandra Emmert, CMS

- Music Composition – Julia Rabinalek, BMS
- Visual Arts – Veronica Rodrigo, BMS

All of the winning entries will receive a certificate and a \$25 Amazon Gift Card and also were submitted to the CT PTA for the next round of competition. Congratulations to the winners and a big thank you to everyone who participated!



Are you ready for some football? Help kick off the Super Bowl by donating some canned goods. The food will be donated to the Gillespie Center of Westport, a food pantry that is part of a larger organization called Homes with Hope. Donation boxes will be located at the main entrance lobby & the Health Education classrooms. The canned drive will run from **February 1st through February 26th**. Help us tackle hunger by making a donation!

IMPORTANT STUDENT TECH REMINDERS!

Students need to bring their school-issued Chromebooks to school CHARGED and in the protective case every day. BMS does not have spare devices or chargers on hand. Students are not permitted to bring their personal devices to school, however, they are welcome to use them at home on distance learning days.

- If students have a technical or physical issue with their device, they can report to the LMC, and the LMC staff will evaluate it and troubleshoot. If the device can not be repaired by the LMC staff, they may swap it out with another device OR provide a loaner while the device is being repaired by a Westport Public School IT technician.
- Please remember that if students have technical issues while learning from home an adult at home can contact the Distance Learning Tech Support. Here is a link (it is also a button on the bottom left of the BMS homepage): <https://bms.westportps.org/fs/pages/3689>

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE: FEBRUARY 1st-5th

DAY, DATE	IN-SCHOOL HYBRID COHORT	SCHEDULE ROTATION
Monday, 01/25/2021	FULL OPEN for Cohorts A & B	C-Day
Tuesday, 01/26/2021	FULL OPEN for Cohorts A & B	B-Day

Wednesday, 01/27/2021	REMOTE LEARNING ½ DAY	D-Day
Thursday, 01/28/2021	FULL OPEN for Cohorts A & B	A-Day
Friday, 01/29/2021	FULL OPEN for Cohorts A & B	E-Day

Prior Newsletters

[BMS/CMS Newsletter #1 Week of Sept 8th-11th](#)

[BMS/CMS Newsletter #2 Week of Sept 14th-18th](#)

[BMS/CMS Newsletter #3 Week of Sept 21st-25th](#)

[BMS/CMS Newsletter #4 Week of Sept 29th-Oct 2nd](#)

[BMS/CMS Newsletter #5 Week Oct 5th-9th](#)

[BMS/CMS Newsletter #6 Week of Oct 12th-16th](#)

[BMS/CMS Newsletter #7 Week of Oct 19th-23rd](#)

[BMS/CMS Newsletter #8 Week of Oct 26th-30th](#)

[BMS/CMS Newsletter #9 Week of Nov 2nd-6th](#)

[BMS/CMS Newsletter #10 Week of Nov 9th-13th](#)

[BMS/CMS Newsletter #11 Week of Nov 16th-20th](#)

[BMS/CMS Newsletter #12 Week of Nov 23rd-25th](#)

[BMS/CMS Newsletter #13 Week of Nov 30th-Dec 4th](#)

[BMS/CMS Newsletter #14 Week of Dec 7th-Dec 11th](#)

[BMS/CMS Newsletter #15 Week of Dec 14th-Dec 18th](#)

[BMS/CMS Newsletter #16 Week of Dec 21st-23rd](#)

[BMS & CMS 2020-2021 Newsletter #17 Jan 4th-8th](#)

[BMS Newsletter #18 Jan 11th-15th](#)

[BMS Newsletter #19 January 19th-22nd](#)