



A Message from Superintendent Les Fujitake

Planning Amid Uncertainty



Teams of school and district leaders, teachers and support staff continue to develop a comprehensive plan for returning our students to school this fall. In this special edition of School Pages, we provide you with the work of these teams, including three educational scenarios that are aligned with the state's current guidance. They are traditional school, hybrid learning and distance learning 2.0. We are also developing a new option, Bloomington Online School for grades K-12.

In all of our planning we have heard from students, families and staff on how we can deliver the best educational experience in each scenario. We will

continue to seek feedback through surveys and at an upcoming live virtual event on July 14. We hope you'll join us for this unique opportunity to learn more about these educational scenarios. And, you'll also have opportunities to ask questions.

We remain committed to doing everything we can to protect the health of our students and staff, advocating for the safe return to in-person learning and continuous communication.

Thank you again for your patience, understanding and feedback. Together we will make it through these challenging times.

1

TRADITIONAL SCHOOL

How does it work?

Students attend school in person each day. Schools will create as much space between students and staff as is feasible but will not strictly enforce 6 feet of social distancing.

What health and safety precautions will we take?

To keep students and staff as safe as possible, the following precautions may be implemented:



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



Hand washing routines built into the schedule



Additional Cleaning



Physical Distancing

Some typical school activities will be limited, like...

- cohort mixing at lunch and recess
- sharing supplies
- large assemblies of more than 250 people
- field trips
- volunteers, family visits and guest speakers

2

HYBRID INSTRUCTION

How does it work?

Students are assigned to attend school physically at least one day per week. Other days, students will learn remotely. Students in grades K-8 will be assigned to attend face-to-face at least two days per week. Students in grades 9-12 will be assigned to attend face-to-face at least one day per week. Students may be assigned additional face-to-face days to receive added support from school staff.

Sample Student Schedule



Benefits of a Hybrid Model

- Less than 50 percent capacity at school; maintains 6 foot distancing per MDE guidelines
- Schedules are consistent for students, families and staff
- Students have regular in-person contact with teachers and classmates
- Flexibility of assigned days based on student need

3

DISTANCE LEARNING 2.0

How does it work?

Students complete teacher assigned work remotely when students are unable to physically attend school.

When would we use this plan?

This emergency plan could be implemented district-wide or for specific schools as conditions warrant. The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) or Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) may recommend this option statewide or if certain conditions develop in our community at some point during the year.

How do students learn without being at school?

All students will have a standard school-provided device for accessing learning activities. Students will have access to internet as needed. School staff have strategies to keep kids learning while students are not at school. Some of those include...



Having discussions on forums or video



Practicing skills using online platforms



Getting assignments online and completing them offline



Creating products to demonstrate learning

NEW OPTION

BLOOMINGTON ONLINE SCHOOL

How does it work?

Students attend school online each day and work with their teachers to complete learning activities specifically designed for their grade level. Students will learn the same concepts and curriculum as their in-school counterparts but the delivery will be adapted to help students succeed in an online environment.

Who might choose Bloomington Online School?

K-12 students who have been successful during distance learning or families who do not want their students to return to face-to-face school in the fall.

More about Bloomington Online School



Taught by Bloomington Public School teachers



Emphasis on community and connections



Balanced approach of online and hands on learning



Support for all students to be successful



Students learn Bloomington Curriculum



Mix of learning by video conferencing and flexible content



Engaging and interactive learning activities



FALL 2020 RETURN TO SCHOOL OPTIONS

We are preparing for three possible models of instruction this fall, with input from students, families and staff on how we can deliver the best educational experience in each scenario.

1

TRADITIONAL SCHOOL



Students attend school every day, with additional precautions including wearing masks, practicing social distancing and cleaning daily.

2

HYBRID INSTRUCTION



Students attend school in-person part-time in smaller groups to limit the number of students in a classroom and allow for physical distancing. When not at school, students complete teacher-assigned work remotely.

3

DISTANCE LEARNING 2.0



This is our emergency instruction plan if students and staff are not allowed to be in buildings as directed by MDE. Students participate in remote learning full-time, with improvements based on staff, parent and student feedback.

NEW OPTION

BLOOMINGTON ONLINE SCHOOL



A new option for Bloomington families

This fully online school for grades K-12 is an enrollment choice and will be available to our families regardless of which of the three formats above we implement this fall. Content will be developed and taught by BPS teachers using our district standards and supports.



RETURN TO SCHOOL

Community Engagement

A LIVE VIRTUAL EVENT PRESENTED BY
BEC-TV

[JULY 14, 2020, 7-8:30 P.M.]

Hear from district leaders on our return to school planning around instruction, facilities, the new Bloomington Online School and more.

Submit your questions at bit.ly/BPS-return

Watch live on BEC-TV, or stream the event on Roku, Apple TV or the BEC-TV website or Facebook page.

Details at bectv.org/where-to-watch

School Pages is published by
Bloomington Public Schools
1350 W. 106th Street
Bloomington, MN 55431-4126
www.bloomingtonschools.org

School Pages is printed and delivered
by mail to 39,700 Bloomington
households at a cost of 15 cents per
copy to inform Bloomington residents
about their public schools.

Editor: Rick J. Kaufman, APR
Executive Director of Community
Relations
952.681.6403

Writers: Andrea George, Kate Martin
Photos: Andrea George

Bloomington School Board
Nelly Korman, Chair
Tom Bennett, Vice Chair
Dawn Steigauf, Clerk
Beth Beebe, Treasurer
Mia Olson, Director
Jim Sorum, Director
Heather Starks, Director
Superintendent **Les Fujitake**, Ex Officio

Bloomington ISD 271
Educational Services Center
1350 West 106th Street
Bloomington, MN 55431-4126

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Twin Cities, MN
Permit #2086