Fall 2021 PLAN

Rationale: The Belleville Township High School District #201 school community worked extremely hard over the course of the last 17 months. I want to continue to recognize our students, parents, support staff, teachers, and administrators for their determination and flexibility. We are hopeful that the 2021-2022 school year will look and feel much different. We are anxious to return to full student attendance, but want everyone to be aware of the mitigation strategies that will remain in place.

*This plan is subject to change if school regulatory authorities (ISBE or IDPH) issue further regulatory guidance or if school health and wellness data dictates.*

Nursing/Health Personnel: Our district is committed to providing and maintaining a healthy environment for students and staff. Our health professionals are available to meet student needs and provide much needed guidance. Masks are required when inside our district health facilities. Masks will be available prior to entry.

Student Wellness/Counseling: We recognize that there are a multitude of factors impacting students at the current time. Our staff is available to help ease student and parent concerns. We are committed to assisting all students make the transition back to school. New school social workers have been added on each campus. Their focus is to help students with the transition back to in-person learning.

Before Arriving at School: Students exhibiting symptoms of sickness should not come to school. We are asking parents to contact the school immediately upon recognizing symptoms. School health professionals will be available for consultation.

Upon Arrival at School: We are asking that all students arrive as close to the start of their first class as possible, unless they have a structured, planned event to attend prior to the beginning of the school day. Students will not be permitted to congregate in groups prior to the beginning of school. Areas will be designated for those who must arrive early.
PPE/Masks: As outlined in governor JB Pritzker’s August 4, 2021 Executive Order, masks are mandatory for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools. While indoors at school, masks are required. When outdoors and socially distant, masks can be removed. Masks are also mandatory while on school buses. Mask guidelines may be subject to change, depending on community health information and/or updates to public health guidance.

Quarantine Requirements: District precautions and protocols for mitigating COVID spread will isolate positive cases at school. Depending on the vaccination status of the individual, quarantine protocols may apply. Per CDC guidance, fully vaccinated individuals or those who are properly masked are not subject to quarantine protocols due to close contact exposure. School district personnel do not determine quarantine status or duration. The aforementioned requirements are based on general guidance. Information pertaining to close contact will be conveyed to the St. Clair County Health Department for a specific determination.

Communication/Disclosures: In the event that a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, school district administration and the County Health Department will work together to identify all individuals who would be considered potential close contacts of the positive case. IDPH defines “close contact” as having been within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes. The school district and/or health department will disclose the potential for exposure with close contacts on an individual basis. The school district will not make mass communications regarding positive tests out of respect for the privacy of the affected individuals.

The School Day: Current guidance calls for in-person instruction. Students will follow a traditional school schedule from 8:30 am-3:25 pm, unless specific scheduling accommodations are made. Social distancing will be observed whenever possible. Specific traffic patterns and hallway procedures will be followed to the greatest extent possible to limit exposure. Students will be assigned lockers.

Learning Environment: The district has made efforts to lower class sizes. IDPH and ISBE recommend 3 feet of distance within the classroom. The district will adhere to this whenever possible.
Remote Learning: Remote Learning is only available this school year for students who meet specific medical criteria. If you believe this applies to your child, please contact the Assistant Principals’ Office at your respective campus.

Visitors: As always, we want our school sites to be as welcoming as possible to family and friends of Belleville Township High Schools. As is typical of most public venues at this time, it is our goal to limit outside traffic at our schools as much as possible. Parents/Guardians and others who must be on campus should expect the following precautions on behalf of our schools:

- Visitors are required to wear masks.
- Parents/Guardians picking up students will be asked to phone the school office from the parking lot and school staff will dismiss your student to meet you.
- All meetings with administration or faculty must be prearranged.
- Visitors should expect to report to a designated area when they arrive on campus.

Cafeteria Procedures: Students will eat in the cafeteria at each school. Our schools will spread students out as much as possible to afford maximum social distancing while eating.

Physical Education: Physical education classes will be conducted throughout the regular school day.

Extracurricular/Enrichment Activities: Providing student enrichment to the traditional school day is one of our district’s strengths. We will make every attempt to maintain programming and provide musical, athletic, academic, artistic, dramatic, and enrichment clubs and activities this school year. We will follow IDPH All Sports Guidance, unless otherwise stipulated.

Athletics/Activities: The IHSA, Illinois State Board of Education, and Illinois Department of Public Health continue to review and plan for upcoming seasons. Our coaches, directors, sponsors, and teachers will comply with all guidance. We will follow IDPH All Sports Guidance, unless otherwise stipulated.
**Technology:** Our district has issued each student their own Google Chromebook. The Chromebook is to remain on their person at all times while at school, and students will be responsible for their issued device while working off campus. Protective cases will accompany all devices. Personal hotspots will be provided to all students who do not have reliable internet in their home, to insure access away from school. Please let a school official know if you need a mobile internet hotspot.

**Transportation:** The district will continue to provide student transportation. Current guidance states that all students must wear a face covering while on the bus. Route and pick-up/drop-off times may have to be adjusted in order to comply with guidance regarding the number of students allowed on the bus.

**Building Cleaning/Sanitation:** Our district will employ the best cleaning/sanitation protocol possible. We invested in electrostatic sterilization equipment which allows the building to be cleaned and sanitized throughout the school day. Each evening the entire building will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the school.