

BLIND BROOK - RYE UNION FREE
SCHOOL DISTRICT



2021-2022 DRAFT OPENING PLAN

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INTRODUCTION

We are looking forward to the return of all Blind Brook-Rye UFSD students this September! Middle and High School students return to full-time, in-person instruction on Thursday, September 9th and K-5 students return to Ridge Street Elementary on Monday, September 13th, 2021.

Although the pandemic continues to pose difficult public health challenges, we know that by working together we can safeguard the health and safety of everyone. Because each person's wellbeing is connected to the health of those around us, we know that our individual choices will impact others. Staying healthy during the pandemic is a shared commitment during which time we must look out for one another.

The mission of the Blind Brook - Rye Union Free School District is to prepare our students to be active, life-long learners who have the skills and confidence necessary to achieve their highest potential. We strive to provide a safe and healthy learning environment in which our students can learn and thrive.

In Spring 2019, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the normal learning environment for our students and staff. We were forced into remote learning for several months with a minimum of training and preparation. Looking forward, we want to make sure that all of our students' educational, social and emotional needs are met no matter what situation the District finds itself. We want to do this in a way that preserves the breadth of educational experiences to which our students are accustomed.

At this time, there is no remote learning option being offered during the 2021-2022 school year. We do however acknowledge the dynamic nature of the pandemic and are prepared to adjust instruction to virtual but only if necessary. The COVID transmission mitigation strategies outlined in this document will be carried out across Blind Brook Schools. Our highest priority will always be the safety of our students, teachers, and staff members.

All COVID transmission mitigation strategies outlined in this document are based in science and adhere to public health recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the New York State Department of Education (NYSED), the New York State Department of Health (NYDOH), the Westchester County Department of Health (WCDOH) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

In planning for a safe school year, we also received input from the Health & Safety Committee, Medical Advisory Committee composed of practicing physicians across Rye Brook, and Dr. Ann Engelland who is our highly experienced school physician and joined our team in July.

Throughout the school year, we will continue to monitor regional COVID transmission data and receive updated guidance to fine tune our practices. We will revise our COVID transmission mitigation strategies when indicated to ensure the health and safety of our students, teachers, staff members, and community at large.

In an effort to provide the best learning experience for our students, the Blind Brook - Rye Union Free School District has developed the following school reopening plan for the 2021-2022 school year. **Since many of the precautions set in place last year remain in place this year, we have highlighted any changes in yellow.** Please note that this plan is subject to change based on New York State and County mandates, changes in the status of COVID-19 in our area or the receipt of new information that would change the perspective of the District on specific matters related to the plan.

The District maintains a goal to keep students and staff healthy and safe and to maximize in-person teaching and learning. Any plan that the District develops complies with the [NYSED Health and Safety Guide for the 2021-2022 School Year](#).

Dr. Patrick Brimstein, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Ann Engelland, School Physician

Dr. Colin Byrne, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

Dr. Jennifer Chirles, Blind Brook High School Principal

Seth Horowitz, Blind Brook Middle School Principal

Tracy Taylor, Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School Principal

COMMUNICATION

Development of Opening Plan

In compliance with the requirements laid out by the Westchester County Department of Health, the District engaged various stakeholder groups in the community in the development of this plan. Groups that were contacted include the administrative team, parents, community members, teachers, and support personnel. Conversations were facilitated through standing groups in the District including the Medical Advisory Committee (composed of a volunteer group of medical professionals who live in the community) and the Health & Safety Committee (a teacher union group that includes members of the support personnel union). Several surveys were sent to parents to ask about the remote learning experience last year and the possibilities for opening school in the coming school year. Building administrators spoke with teachers in their building to gather specific information for each level of learning. Additionally the District consulted its new school physician, Dr. Ann Engelland, for input on enacting safe protocols.

Communication of Information

The District has a [web page](#) dedicated to instruction and school operations during the current COVID-19 situation. All information from the District and school newsletters will be posted on this web page. The page will also contain additional resources for parents on topics such as providing social/emotional support, maintaining physical health, and assisting children with learning.

To facilitate both the reporting of COVID-19 information to New York State as well as the dissemination of information to the community, the District will establish an information coordinator. Any questions about processes and protocols related to COVID-19 should be directed to the COVID coordinator.

Coordinator name: Ryan Nacarrato

District title: Director of Health, Nursing, Physical Education and Interscholastic Athletics

Email address: rnaccarato@blindbrook.org

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Paramount among the considerations that the District is reviewing in regards to the opening of schools is the health and safety of our students and employees. We must provide an environment in which students and staff can learn and work without fear for their health.

As per State regulations, any student or staff member who has a fever of 100 °F or greater and/or symptoms of possible infectious illness should not be present in school. The following symptoms have been identified as common symptoms of COVID-19:

- Fever or chills (100°F or greater);
- Cough;
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
- Fatigue;
- Muscle or body aches;
- Headache;
- New loss of taste or smell;
- Sore throat;
- Congestion or runny nose;
- Nausea or vomiting; and/or
- Diarrhea.

Additionally, it is strongly recommended that all staff are educated to observe students or other staff members for signs of any type of illness such as:

- Flushed cheeks;
- Rapid or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity);
- Fatigue, and/or irritability; and
- Frequent use of the bathroom.

Health Checks

Use of a screening tool during the 2020-2021 school year was not found to be an effective tool in mitigating the exposure to COVID in our schools. Based on this the District will not be using the EZSCRN health attestation app for students and staff this year.

All students and staff must inform the school nurse if they develop symptoms during school hours. Anyone in the building who exhibits any of the signs of illness listed above will be sent to the nurse immediately for evaluation. If the nurse is not available, the individual will be isolated until such time as the nurse is available or the individual is sent home.

Visitors to the building will be screened before entering the building. This will include a temperature check as well as the completion of a health attestation that will be available at the main entrance of each building. All individuals who are waiting to be screened for building entrance will wait outside of the building at regularly spaced intervals. Individuals will only enter the building when admitted by authorized personnel.

Healthy Hygiene Practices

All students and employees will need to maintain a healthy and safe lifestyle. The District will provide training for both students and staff on how to maintain appropriate hand and respiratory hygiene.

Signage will be posted by building entrances, in hallways and in common areas reminding everyone of the following items:

- Stay home if you feel sick.
- Use an acceptable face covering while in any school building (see Masking section).
- The proper use and storage of PPE.
- Adhere to social distancing instructions.
- Report if you have any symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to COVID-19..
- Follow hand hygiene, and cleaning and disinfection guidelines.

Signage for hand washing protocols is posted in all restrooms.

Time will be scheduled during the school day for students to perform proper hand hygiene. This includes breaks for handwashing or use of hand sanitizer. Reminders of proper handwashing techniques will be given at key times including when using the restroom, before and after eating, recess and physical education.

Hand sanitizer is available in each classroom, including auditoriums and gymnasiums, as well as by each active building entrance and in nursing offices. Any hand sanitizer purchased will meet the recommendation of containing at least 60% alcohol.

Procedures for proper hygiene for sneezing and coughing will be posted and reviewed with all students and staff. This includes the use of tissues to cover the nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing and to dispose of the tissue properly.

All classrooms and entranceways will be provided with sanitizing wipes, hand sanitizer, and tissue boxes as well as a trash receptacle for tissue disposal.

Social Distancing

To the extent possible, social distancing will be practiced on all Blind Brook school campuses. Classrooms will be designed in an effort to always maintain, at minimum, a three foot distance between students, and a six foot distance between students and adults. This includes physical education and music classes.

Congregating in common areas will be limited based on social distancing parameters. Large school gatherings such as assemblies may be held if appropriate social distancing measures can be met. Some large scale events may still be held virtually.

Adults will only access buildings through the main entranceway. Parents must notify school buildings in advance of their arrival in order to be permitted into the building. Anyone without advance permission will not be allowed to enter the building.

Social distancing is not required on school buses but is highly recommended when possible.

Masking

NY State Governor Kathy Hochul announced on Tuesday, Aug. 24, that universal indoor masking will be required for all individuals entering the schools, regardless of vaccination status. We will be requiring that all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to our school wear masks while indoors regardless of vaccination status.

Masks are also required on school buses by students, faculty, and staff. Disposable face masks will be available to students who forget to bring a face mask with them.

Masks will be required during indoor athletics events. Mask wearing for outdoor events will be at the discretion of the coaches and athletes. Outdoor masking is recommended for crowded outdoor settings and during activities with close contact when social distancing cannot be maintained.

In music classes, students will be required to use masks, as well as bell covers for wind instruments, when playing/singing indoors. When outdoors, masking and bell covers will not be required.

For personnel who are at a higher risk of exposure to COVID-19, in particular our nursing staff, additional PPE will be purchased to help safeguard the safety of those individuals. This will include N95 respirator masks, gloves, face shields and disposable gowns.

Masks shall include, but are not limited to, cloth masks, surgical masks, and N-95 respirators that are worn to completely cover a person's nose and mouth. Masks with vents, bandanas and neck gaiters are not acceptable.

Vaccinations

There is agreement among health experts that vaccinations are the most effective measure against the COVID-19 virus. All students and staff in the Blind Brook School District are strongly encouraged to get the vaccination.

Governor Hochul announced that New York State is working on developing a method to require all teachers to be vaccinated with an option to test out weekly. Updates on this will be sent when new information is available.

Blind Brook is reviewing the possibility of setting up a pop-up vaccination clinic for members of the Blind Brook community in conjunction with the Westchester County Department of Health. This would provide easy access for residents and employees to a vaccination location. More information will follow.

COVID-19 Testing

Testing is readily available in our community. Students, staff or visitors requiring COVID-19 testing should contact their health provider, a local urgent care, federally qualified health center or visit the NYSDOH website to locate a nearby testing facility <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you>.

The District will continue offering COVID testing through a joint program with Westchester County. Having an established testing program will allow the District to better monitor for possible exposure to COVID in our schools. With a large percentage of participation in the testing program comes the ability for the District to more accurately create policies and procedures around COVID.

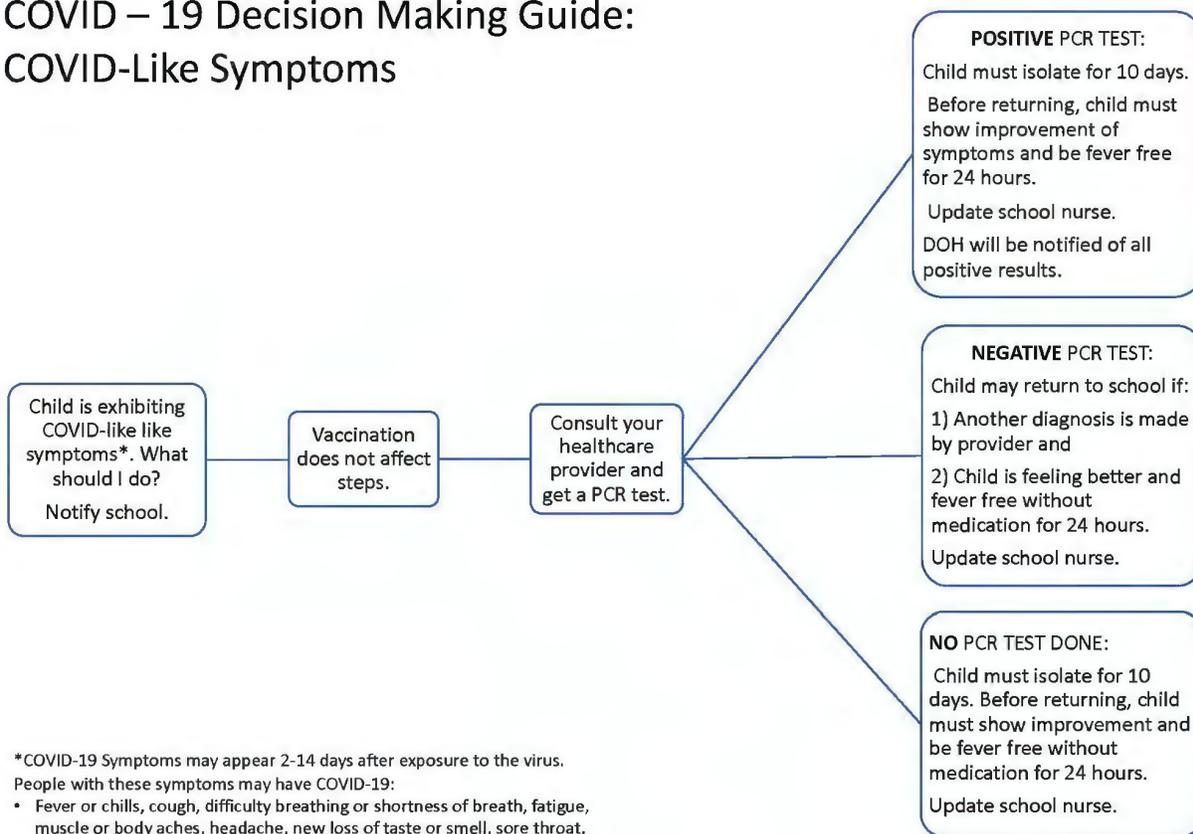
Participation in this testing is voluntary for both staff and students. A form will be sent out for parents and employees to sign up for testing. This testing is based on collecting a sample of saliva from each cohort participant. Each testing group is batch tested with additional testing done if a positive result is found.

Staying Home When Sick

All students or staff, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, must stay home when feeling sick or experiencing symptoms associated with Covid-19. Any illness should be reported through the normal processes for each school building.

The chart below outlines the process for determining what to do if a child has COVID-like symptoms. Adults in the building should follow a similar process.

COVID – 19 Decision Making Guide: COVID-Like Symptoms



Click the image to view a larger version

In the case of a child having a negative PCR test, a copy of the test results must be submitted in order for an individual to return to school. The District will only accept PCR tests as evidence that an individual is not carrying the virus. Rapid tests will not be accepted. Students or employees who are awaiting a screening COVID test result do not need to stay home unless they experience COVID-like symptoms.

Management of Ill Persons in School

The management of both students and employees who are determined to be ill is critical in the current situation. Anyone who is identified as having symptoms related to COVID-19 (see list at the start of this section) will need to report to the nurse's office immediately. The nurse will make an assessment of the individual to determine whether the symptoms may be COVID-19 related and determine if isolation is necessary. A procedure to adequately space students or staff members who are waiting to see the nurse will be developed for each building.

If the nurse is not available or the individual is suspected of having COVID-19, the individual will be isolated immediately and will be sent home or dismissed as is appropriate. For students, parents will be contacted to coordinate the dismissal of the student. Parents will be informed to contact their child's health care provider.

A specific location near the nurse's office will be designated as an isolation room for those who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19. Specific individuals will be designated to assist with the management of this space which includes the supervision of younger students, the contacting of parents, and the proper cleaning if the space has been used.

Symptomatic students or staff members will follow the steps outlined in the section above unless otherwise directed by a healthcare provider or the local department of health. If any individual shows potentially life-threatening symptoms such as trouble breathing or pain in the chest area, a call will be made to 911 immediately.

Contact Tracing

The Blind Brook School District will notify the local health department immediately upon being informed of any positive COVID-19 diagnostic test result by an individual within school facilities or on school grounds, including students, faculty, staff, and visitors of BBUFSD.

To assist the local health department with tracing the transmission of COVID-19, BBUFSD has developed and maintained a plan to trace all contacts of exposed individuals in accordance with protocols, training, and tools provided through the New York State Contact Tracing Program.

Districts may assist with contact tracing by:

- Keeping accurate attendance records of students and staff members
- Ensuring student schedules are up to date
- Keeping a visitor log that includes date and time address and phone number, and where in the school they visited
- Assisting the local health departments in tracing all contacts of the individual in accordance with the protocol, training, and tools provided through the NYS Contact Tracing Program

- Informing the local health department of a staff member testing positive regardless of county of residence.
- For all contact tracing, the DOH will require the name, address, and phone number as well as the name and phone number of the guardian of a student for all contacts regardless of vaccination status. .

If/when COVID-19 cases are discovered, in consultation with the local health department BB-R UFSD will do the following:

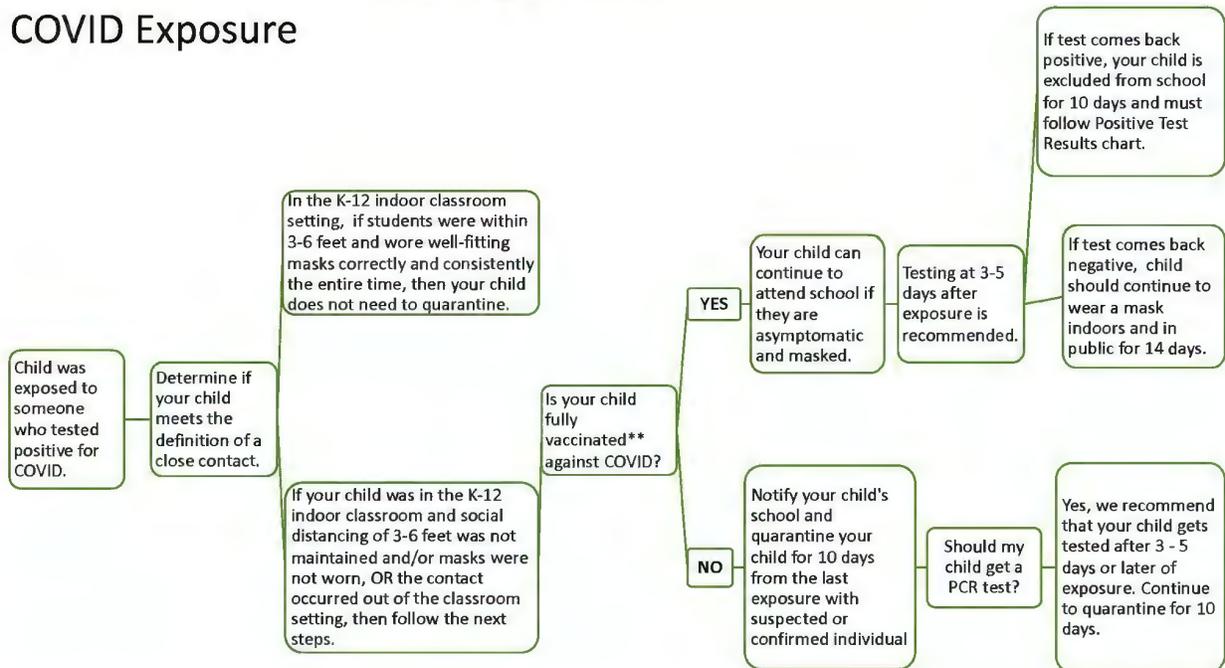
- Close or quarantine locations of potential exposure, if needed. The need for and length of time required for closures will be dependent on the time needed to thoroughly clean the spaces and to complete contact tracing.
- Clean and disinfect locations as necessary
- Provide DOH with information as required

Confidentiality must be maintained as required by federal and state laws and regulations. Staff should not try to determine who is to be excluded without guidance and direction from the local health department. In case of delay in response from DOH, the school nurses, health director and medical director may be contacted. In such cases the safety of all will be considered.

Exposure and Quarantining

Anyone who is exposed to an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 should use the flowchart below to determine what steps should be taken. Adults should follow a similar process.

COVID – 19 Decision Making Guide: COVID Exposure



COVID-19 Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills, cough, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea

** Definition of "fully vaccinated":

- 2 weeks after a second dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.
- 2 weeks after a single dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Click the image to view a larger version

Please note that individuals who are waiting for a COVID test result do not need to stay home unless they are experiencing symptoms. Suspected exposure cases should be reported to the COVID notification email addresses for each school:

Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School - covidrss@blindbrook.org

Blind Brook Middle School - covidms@blindbrook.org

Blind Brook High School - covidhs@blindbrook.org

As with last year, the Westchester County Department of Health will make all decisions as to who will have to quarantine. A table provided by the Westchester County Department of Health is below.

What type of contact requires quarantine?

DO I NEED TO QUARANTINE?		
A quick reference guide		
	CLOSE CONTACT	PROXIMATE CONTACT
VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS	NO	NO
MASKED	NO	NO
UNMAKSED	NO	NO
UNVACCINATED ADULTS	YES	NO
MASKED	YES	YES
UNMAKSED	YES	YES
UNVACCINATED STUDENTS	NO	NO
MASKED	YES	YES
UNMAKSED	YES	YES
INDIVIDUALS WITH COVID IN LAST 90 DAYS	NO	NO
MASKED	NO	NO
UNMAKSED	NO	NO

Westchester County
Dept. of Health guidelines
as of 8/18/21



Close Contact:
being closer than 6ft
for more than
ten minutes
cumulatively over
24 hours.

Proximate Contact:
sharing the same room
(enclosed space) for
more than ten minutes
cumulatively over
24 hours.

Click the image to view a larger version

FACILITIES

During arrival and dismissal all designated entranceways doors will be held open. Personnel will be on hand to monitor who is entering and exiting the building during these times. At all other times all exterior doors will be locked. Doorways to commonly accessed spaces such as bathrooms or hallways will be propped open during the school day.

The District has implemented some alterations to its air filtration system including setting the system to draw in outside air rather than recycling air and the use of filters with a MERV 13 rating; the highest rated air filters available. Our schools will do everything possible to meet or exceed ventilation requirements and will consult with design professionals to increase ventilation and filtration where possible.

All drinking water fountains will be disabled during this building reentry. However, bottle refill stations will still be available for use. Students should bring water bottles with them if water is needed during the school day.

All schools will continue to conduct mandatory fire and lockdown drills according to the existing statutory schedule as promulgated by the NYSED. School leaders will plan for these drills to be conducted in a manner that maintains social distancing at exits and gathering points outside the building, while still preparing students to respond in emergencies. Plans will be adjusted to take into account the new scheduling models.

Air Ventilation and Filtration

The District has implemented some alterations to its air filtration system including setting the system to draw in outside air rather than recycling air and the use of filters with a MERV 13 rating: these are highly rated, hospital-grade air filters. The mechanical systems at the Middle School and High School buildings are central systems that use MERV 13 filters and are adjusted through a central management system to bring into each building the maximum level of outside air that ambient conditions can permit.

At the Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School, the 1965 wing classrooms have unit ventilators mounted at the exterior wall under the windows and each has a MERV 13 filter. The unit ventilators provide positive, controlled ventilation in the room as well as heat. Each room has a window air conditioner with a MERV 5 filter and a portable UV/HEPA super air cleaner. In the 1950 wing and old and new gyms, there are new mechanical systems with MERV 13 filtration and there is a portable UV/HEPA super air cleaner in each room. In the 1955 wing, a new mechanical system installation is in progress and will be completed during 2021. Currently, every room does have window A/C unit and a portable UV/HEPA super air cleaner. Also, all classroom and office windows can be easily opened manually.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

The District is dedicated to maintaining a clean environment. All cleaning and disinfecting that will take place will comply with guidelines from NYSED and the CDC.

All custodians/cleaners use janitorial carts that were recently purchased. These carts have everything the staff needs to do his or her job a bit faster and more efficiently. In cleaning rooms during the school day and afterschool, the custodians/cleaners use safe, green products for cleaning desks, tables, computers, keyboards, handrails, floors, bathrooms, water fountains, and vending machines. The District has recently purchased new cleaning and disinfecting products to use along some of our older products like ENVIROX H2ORANGE2 which is a sanitizer/virucide cleaner.

For deeper cleaning, the staff uses CLOROX HEALTHCARE BLEACH GERMICIDAL WIPES and CLOROX DISINFECTING WIPES (bleach-free) on all hard surfaces like chairs, desks, tables, counter tops, door handles, handrails, vending machines, and water fountains. Custodians will be using CLOROX Clean-Up Disinfectant in a spray bottle and a brush to clean toilets and urinals. Deep cleaning will also include regularly using HYDROLYTE which is a broad spectrum, hospital-grade disinfectant that meets OSHA standards and is EPA-registered for use to mitigate touch-transmission of COVID-19. Hydrolyte will be used on soft surfaces like chairs with fabric and carpeting. HYDROLYTE will be applied using MEDAMA ELECTROSTATIC BACKPACK SPRAYER. The electrostatic sprayer is a backpack electric sprayer that employs static electricity. This sprayer is an ideal high efficiency piece of equipment used in the fields of sanitation, epidemic prevention, and for disinfection. We also use products like GERMISEPT ALCOHOL WIPES and SAF-T-WIPES.

Cleaning staff and custodians are continually reminded that the highest level of cleaning must be done every day and night. Faculty and administrators have also reminded Luis Rodriguez and Louis Greco of instances where they believe additional or extra cleaning is needed. This has resulted in a sustained, high focus on this area of operations.

Electronic devices will be cleaned regularly with cleaners that are appropriate for these types of devices. Cleaning wipes will be available in every classroom so that teachers or students will be able to wipe down any surface.

The District has hired additional staff to assist with daily cleaning routines. This will ensure that all spaces in our school buildings will be adequately cleaned between uses.

School buses are viewed as an extension of the school building. As such, the same cleaning and disinfecting protocols that are in place in our buildings also applies to our buses. The District's bus drivers perform regular school bus cleaning and disinfection measures; train students and school bus staff regarding social distancing on the bus, at stops, and at unloading times; and train students and staff regarding the wearing of masks. Buses are cleaned after the morning runs, midday runs, and afternoon runs and at other times that may be needed.

CHILD NUTRITION/LUNCH

The maintenance of good nutrition among our students is a key ingredient in keeping them healthy. The District is committed to making sure that students are provided the opportunity to eat when in our buildings for full day instruction in a safe environment.

We will make sure that there is adequate space provided when students are eating lunch in school. Outdoor seating will be used whenever possible. Students will be given time to properly wash their hands before and after eating. Six foot distancing and/or polycarbonate barriers will be used in common eating areas.

At BBMS/BBHS, more food service options will be available this year. A limited amount of hot food as well as pre-wrapped food will be available. Students will be able to pre-order sandwiches and salads as well. Social distancing and mask wearing will be in effect while students are on the serving lines and while not eating at a lunch table. Specific locations will be designated for eating. Students will be able to meet with have access to spaced in the building

Food service will still be unavailable at the Bruno. M Ponterio Ridge Street school for this school year.

All food service staff will be trained in all requirements that the District has implemented as well as all new safety procedures relating to the preparation, handling and delivery of food. Post-lunch, all surfaces will be cleaned.

Students who have been determined as eligible for free or reduced lunches will continue to receive lunch through our food service program. The process for applying for eligibility for free or reduced lunch status will be sent out to families and will be posted on the District website. Students who are in school during lunch time will receive lunch through whatever food service is established. Students who are not in schools can continue to pick up lunches through the Port Chester elementary schools as was established during last Spring.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELL BEING

We in the Blind Brook School District understand the mental and emotional impact that the current COVID-19 crisis has had on everyone including students, staff and their families. Our country has been simultaneously hit with a global pandemic, civil unrest due to inequity and racism, and an economic recession. The toll on everyone in our school district has been great.

It is important that we make sure that our students and staff are supported in their social emotional health. To that end the District continually reviews it's K-12 counseling program to make sure that the right resources and supports are in place specifically in regards to dealing with the trauma resulting from the current crises. Additionally, the District continues to review the Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports (MTSS) plan that was developed to make sure that the plan sufficiently addresses how to assist students with social emotional needs in the classroom.

Our District mental health experts, including psychologists, social workers and counselors, assist those who are anxious about returning to school. The services of these individuals will be made available more readily to both staff and students.

Resources for students, parents and staff members will be posted on the District's website in a readily accessible location.

TECHNOLOGY

During the closure of schools in the spring of the 2020-2021 school year, the importance of having access to technology as well as the proper training in its use became evident. In the event that remote instruction occurs in the future, the District will work with families and staff to ensure that they have the tools necessary.

Technology tools that were found to be effective, continue to be available to all moving forward. As part of its best practices, the District will provide continued training to all students on the tools that can be used within instruction. Training will also be provided to faculty and staff on these tools as well.

For students that are in need of a device at home in the event of remote learning in grades K-5, please fill out the Chromebook Request Form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf31vL1LjrXB5sMEbX9hMYd9AGbZGQCUYjUIgUCSmk77Awj0A/viewform?usp=sf_link

TEACHING AND LEARNING

The overall goals for the 2021-2022 school year are to keep students and staff healthy and safe, be responsive to student needs, and maximize in-person teaching and learning.

Schedules

All schools will return to the schedules that they operated under prior to COVID. Access to bell schedules can be found on each school's website.

Instruction for Students Under Quarantine

As the District returns to full day in-person learning, there is a recognition that some students who were exposed to COVID may be required to quarantine. Students who are in this situation and are asymptomatic need to be supported instructionally. Options for meeting the educational needs of students under mandated quarantine are currently being explored for each school building.

Students who are ill while under quarantine need to focus their energies on recovering from their illness and should treat this time as sick time.

Special Education

- Special education programs and services provided will address the provision of FAPE identified in the student's IEP consistent with the need to protect the health and safety of students with disabilities and those providing special education and services.
- Special education programs and services will address meaningful parent engagement in the parent's preferred language or mode of communication regarding the provision of services to his/her child to meet the requirements of the IDEA.
- Special education programs and services will ensure access to the necessary accommodations, modifications, supplementary aids and services, and technology (including assistive technology) to meet the unique disability related needs of students.
- Any questions regarding the provision of or need for special education services or accommodations should be directed to Harry Burg, Director of Pupil Services (Secondary), or Amelia Carpanzano, Assistant Director (Elementary).

School Specific Items

Blind Brook High School

Lockers:

Students will be assigned a locker to use throughout the school year. We encourage students to use distancing when practical in the locker areas. Should students not be able to adequately maintain distancing in the locker areas, locker use may be restricted.

Music/Theater Performance Courses:

When singing or playing a wind/brass instrument, students should use masking when not playing. Students should use bell covers and have their own mouthpieces. Use of outdoor spaces when singing or playing instruments is highly recommended.

Blind Brook Middle School

Backpacks:

Students will be permitted to carry backpacks to class as long as they are safely stored (ie - not a tripping hazard) in each classroom. Please note that students will be required to keep the following items in their locker and will not be permitted to bring them to class: coats, lunch/snacks, instruments, cell phones and other personal electronic devices (Smart Watches, Fitbits, etc.).

Lockers:

Students will be assigned a locker to use throughout the school year. As lockers are within close proximity to one another, students will not be permitted to linger and congregate. Instead students will be encouraged to quickly get things or put them away. While students will be permitted to carry a backpack, the following items must be kept in their locker: coats, lunch/snacks, instruments, cell phones and other personal electronic devices (Smart Watches, Fitbits, etc.).

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

All athletic sports will be running on the normal school schedule. Any changes to the scheduling of a sport will be relayed as soon as possible.

Based on the guidance from NYSED as well as discussions with the Westchester County Dept of Health and Section 1 Athletic Conference, the following decisions have been made regarding the wearing of masks while participating in sports. For all indoor sports, masks will be worn by all participants and spectators. For outdoor sports, masks are not required, but can be worn if desired.

We will be following the most recent and up to date guidance from our local Westchester County Department of Health. Please know that guidance will continue to evolve and update as we navigate through the school year. Our top priority is to keep all of our students, staff and community members safe. It will be a team effort.

TRANSPORTATION / BUSING

The school bus is an extension of the school district. As such, the same safety protocols that will be in place in our buildings will also apply to our buses. Both students and drivers will wear masks on the school bus. Social distancing is not required on school buses but is highly recommended when possible.

The District will continue to provide transportation to private schools and to schools with programs serving resident students with disabilities – just as they always have. School bus service shall be provided in accordance with Blind Brook school board policies in terms of student eligibility and based on the District's opening schedules contained in this reopening plan.