

# Bushnell-Prairie City



Return-to-Learn Plan  
August 2020

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## INTRODUCTION

As the state entered Phase IV of Restore Illinois, a guidance document developed by the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health was provided to school districts to support planning for a return to in-person instruction. The Return-to-Learn Plan developed by the Bushnell-Prairie City District Leadership team and school personnel and approved by the B-PC Board of Education will comply with that guidance. This plan is fluid and may change based upon direction and mandates issued from state agencies. The District will work hard to provide timely communication with our school community of any significant changes to the current learning plan and/or important information that is received. During Phase IV, current guidelines provided by the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health:

- Require use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including face coverings;
- Prohibit more than 50 individuals from gathering in one space;
- Require social distancing be observed, as much as possible;
- Require that schools conduct symptom screenings and temperature checks or require that individuals self-certify that they are free of symptoms before entering school buildings; and
- Require an increase in schoolwide cleaning and disinfection.

The plan, developed by the Leadership Team and other key school and district personnel, focused on the following:

- We believe all students should have access to high-quality instruction.
- We believe in-person instruction is the most effective model for our students.
- We recognize that consistency and structure are important for students, teachers, and families.
- We are responsible for creating and maintaining safe learning environments.

## SUMMARY

A blended model will be implemented to provide the required 5-hours of instruction; 4 hours of in-person instruction, with additional hours required remotely. The school day will begin at 8:00 am and end at 12:00 pm, Monday-Friday (excluding holidays and days of non-student attendance). Students who wish to eat breakfast in their classroom may begin arriving at 7:30 am. All other students should plan to arrive by 8:00 am to begin their school day.

Teachers return to school for the 2020-2021 school year on Monday, August 17. Students return to school on Wednesday, August 19. The first three days of school will be used to teach students how to engage in remote learning in this new blended model (i.e. contact their teacher, submit assignments, seek assistance, etc.). Teachers will also maintain a Google Classroom platform to

support those students who choose not to return to in-person instruction and instead, engage in remote learning. Video conferencing platform, Google Meet will be used for special education students working with a special educator to insure confidentiality. All students will be provided with a Chromebook. The District is currently working to provide hot spot technology to students who do not have Internet access.

Daily attendance is expected, and teachers will utilize traditional grading. Teachers will be available in the afternoons until 3:15 pm for scheduled student consultation or assistance and to manage remote learning. Visitors to school buildings are discouraged.

If you are not planning on sending your child back to school, but instead he/she will be participating in remote learning\* only, please contact your school office no later than Friday, August 7, 2020. It is assumed that if you have not contacted the school office, your child will attend in-person learning.

\*Please note: Remote learning is not the same as home schooling. Students who participate in remote learning are those who have completed the registration process; are enrolled in a specific grade and/or courses; and are subject to all policies and procedures established by the District.

## Teaching and Learning

### *Elementary*

In-person instruction will focus on reading/language arts and mathematics in grades K-5; with social studies, science, art, music, and physical education provided remotely. Intervention and special education will be provided from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm while students are in attendance during in-person instruction, and remotely as needed. Lockers will not be used, and students will maintain their materials in their backpacks and/or classrooms. Our pre-K students will attend from 8:00 am to 10:30 am.

### *Junior High*

Six (6) class periods will be provided that include 1) language arts, 2) literature, 3) science, 4) mathematics, 5) social studies, and 6) physical education. Electives, with the exception of Chorus, will be offered remotely. Chorus will not be offered due to the increased risk of exposure to airborne illnesses. Special education will be provided from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm while students are in attendance during in-person instruction and remotely, as needed. Students will remain with their grade level group in a classroom and teachers will rotate classrooms. Lockers will not be assigned, and students will maintain their materials in their backpacks and/or classrooms.

### *High School*

Six (6) class periods will be provided that include all course offerings with the exception of Chorus, Foods and Nutrition, and Food Science (due to the increased risk of exposure to airborne illnesses) and Freshman Seminar (to allow for enrollment in electives). Physical Education will be offered remotely. Edgenuity will also be available for students in need of credit recovery and/or to obtain additional credits. Special education will be provided from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm while students are in attendance during in-person instruction and remotely, as needed. Students

will be assigned to specific groups and dismissed during passing times to avoid large numbers in the hallway, and lockers will not be assigned. Students will maintain their materials in their backpacks and/or classrooms. Dismissal will be staggered to avoid large numbers in the hallways.

### School Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast and lunch will be available. Breakfast will be provided to students as they enter the building to eat in their classroom (Elementary) or 1<sup>st</sup> period class (Junior High and High School). Lunch will be provided to students at the end of the day (loaded onto buses for bus riders and distributed to other students as they exit the building). Parents of students who participate in remote learning only should contact their school office if they would like to pick breakfast or lunch up at school for their child(ren).

### Getting to School

Traditional busing for those who qualify will be provided; however, parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to transport their students if possible due to the difficulty to maintain social distancing on buses. Students who ride the bus will be required to have a face mask and their temperature taken by staff prior to boarding. The District will not be able to transport any student who does not have a face mask and/or any student who has a temperature above 100.4°. Parents should remain at the bus stop until their child has been screened and allowed to board the bus to insure adequate supervision. Students will be required to remain in their assigned seat and continue to wear their face mask throughout the remainder of the school day. If you are not able to drive your child(ren) to school and are eligible for busing, it is important that you notify your school office that you need busing no later than Friday, August 7, 2020. This will allow for adequate time to develop routes (if needed) and to assign health monitors.

Students who walk to school, drive to school, or who are dropped off will be required to wear a face mask and their temperature taken prior to entering school buildings. Queue lines will be established at each school building that promote social distancing while students wait to enter the building.

### Health and Safety

All staff (including bus drivers) will undergo a health screening prior to starting their day. As required by the Illinois Department of Public Health, except while eating and during band, face coverings must be worn at all times in school buildings, even when social distance is maintained. All individuals in a school building must wear a face covering unless they have a medical contraindication provided by a medical physician, are under 2 years of age, have trouble breathing, or are unconscious, incapacitated, or unable to remove the face covering without assistance. Face masks do not need to be N95 (medical grade), but do need to adequately and completely cover the mouth and nose.

The District will not be able to allow any student or staff member who has a temperature above 100.4° to attend school until he/she has been free of an elevated temperature for 72 hours without

medication. Frequent cleaning of all hard surfaces will occur continuously throughout the day and again once students have been dismissed for the day. Hand sanitizer will be provided in every classroom for student use when they enter and exit and handwashing will be encouraged.

Comfort and emotional health and safety is also important. Frequent breaks and learning outside (when appropriate) will also be encouraged and occur continuously throughout the day. Teachers will be vigilant in monitoring students' need for a break from the masks and limited movement until over time, stamina and tolerance increases.

Any staff member or student who tests positive for COVID-19 or who shows signs or symptoms of illness (fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, fatigue, muscle and body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea) should contact their school office, seek medical attention, self-isolate, and follow CDC guidelines to know when to discontinue isolation. Anyone who has had contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 or is suspected of having COVID-19 infection should contact their school office, isolate at home, and monitor symptoms for 14 days. Anyone who did not have close contact will be able to return to school after appropriate cleaning and disinfection has occurred. Close contact is defined as within 6 feet and for more than 15 minutes. In the event a staff member or student tests positive for COVID-19, the District will notify the McDonough County Health Department and school community while maintaining confidentiality. The District will continue to work with the McDonough County Health Department and the Illinois Department of Public Health to ensure compliance with current and changing regulations.

## Attendance

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of the day (Elementary) and at the beginning of each class period (Junior High and High School). If a student is unable to attend, the parent/guardian should contact the school office. As is customary when school is in session, if no call is received by the school office for a student who is not in attendance, he/she will be marked unexcused. Students who participate remotely will have their daily attendance monitored through Google Classroom participation.

## Grading

Teachers will be responsible for assessing student work and assigning traditional grades (Junior High and High School) and performance descriptors (Elementary). Teachers will be providing feedback during in-person instruction and via Google Classroom.

## Teamwork

### ***District Employees and Administrators***

To ensure student success during blended learning, district staff and administrators will provide

- teaching materials and digital resources for teachers;
- appropriate learning materials and digital resources for students;

- resources, training, and support for families to support online access for all students;
- outreach to students and families;
- trained staff to conduct health screenings; and
- cleaning supplies, training, and staff to maintain safe and clean learning environments.

### ***Teachers***

To maximize time, promote learning, and maintain communication, teachers will

- utilize Google Classroom and Google Meet to develop assignments, due dates; communicate student progress, and take attendance of remote learners;
- organize and assemble student supplies to support remote learning and/or activities introduced during in-person instruction;
- monitor and support students' academic and social/emotions needs;
- take daily attendance during in-person instruction;
- work closely with families to ensure students stay engaged in learning; and
- develop a schedule that supports remote learning, allows for consultation, and 1:1 assistance.

### ***Students***

To stay engaged in learning, students will

- attend all in-person instruction (if possible);
- bring their Chromebook and charger to school every day;
- utilize Google Classroom to complete and submit work, and communicate with their teachers;
- show care and responsibility of issued Chromebooks; and
- ask for help or clarification when needed.

### ***Parents/Guardians***

To support student learning and safety, and maintain home-school connections, parents/guardians will

- maintain current contact information (phone numbers, email) in Skyward;
- download communication apps onto mobile devices;
- work closely with teachers to address student learning needs;
- notify the school office or teacher of any barriers to remote learning;
- provide a space and basic school supplies at home for your child to complete remote learning activities;
- encourage care and responsibility of issued Chromebooks;
- keep a child home if he/she exhibits any of the following symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, fatigue, muscle and body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea);
- provide a mask for you child every day they attend school; and
- remain at the bus stop until your child is allowed to board (bus riders only).

## Student Privacy

The District has worked tirelessly to provide a secure platform for hybrid learning that makes the learning environment accessible, maximizes student participation, and allows for parent/guardian support. The act of recording classroom activities and/or interactions through remote learning access removes all of the barriers that have intentionally been put in place to provide a safe and private learning environment for all of the students in our care - and is expressly prohibited. Recording students and/or teachers without their consent is a violation of privacy and student records law. We ask for your cooperation and help to insure that the District can continue to provide hybrid instruction in the format developed; one that encourages and supports the varied needs of all students and families.

## Important Deadlines

Friday, August 7, 2020 to notify your school office if

- 1) your child qualifies for transportation and will need to ride the bus, or
- 2) your child will be participating in remote learning, and will not attend in-person instruction.

## Looking Ahead

As with any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact your school office for assistance. The information provided is based upon current guidance and mandates and may evolve as new information is provided to school districts. It is our continued goal that students return to in-person learning, full-time, as conditions allow.

<i>Bushnell-Prairie City Elementary</i>	<i>Bushnell-Prairie City Junior High</i>	<i>Bushnell-Prairie City High School</i>
<i>345 Hess</i>	<i>847 North Walnut</i>	<i>845 North Walnut</i>
<i>Bushnell, IL 61422</i>	<i>Bushnell, IL 61422</i>	<i>Bushnell, IL 61422</i>
<i>(309) 772-9464</i>	<i>(309) 772-3123</i>	<i>(309) 772-2113</i>

## References

*Consideration for Closing the 2019-2020 School Year & Summer 2020, Part 1 – Transition Plan* (Illinois State Board of Education)

*Part 3 Transition Guidance: Starting the 2020-2021 School Year, FAQ* (Illinois State Board of Education)

*Update Summer School and Other Allowable Activities, Part 2 – Transition Joint Guidance* (Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health)