

Brookfield Central School
Achieving Academic Excellence

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Suzanne Scully



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Valerie Nolan

District Clerk
Christa Case

P.O Box 60, 1910 Fairground Road, Brookfield, NY 13314

Telephone: (315) 899-3323

Fax: (315)-899-8902

January 13, 2021

Dear BCS Family;

As we have stated many times the health and safety of our students, families, and staff has been and continues to be our first priority throughout this pandemic. To date, to the best of our knowledge, we have not had a single incidence of COVID transmission occurring in our school building. However, at this time the Brookfield community, like most communities throughout our country, is experiencing an increase transmission rate of the virus. This is not unexpected. Taking this into consideration a team of school personnel has been reviewing our health and safety protocols and making modifications when appropriate.

District personnel will continually examine and reevaluate our health and safety practices and make changes as health conditions warrant. Following is a summary of recent changes that will go into effect immediately.

Transportation

- The district has added an additional bus route and reviewed the seating arrangements on school buses to increase social distancing on school buses. Our students have without exception worn masks while on the school bus and we compliment them for doing so. Great job students!!
- In the event of a bus driver shortage the district has contingency plans to double bus routes. This would change the pickup and drop off time for students, but would maintain social distancing on the buses.

Health Questionnaire

- The daily student health questionnaire has been reduced from 10 questions to 2 questions. Parents will be required to complete this form by 7:30AM every day your child will be in the building (previously this was only required on Monday). The completion of the student health questionnaire is a critical procedure in keeping the virus from entering the school building.

The health questionnaire should be completed every day a student will be in the school building. Access the health questionnaire at <https://www.parentsquare.com/> or by downloading the Parent Square app.

- Students without a completed daily health questionnaire will be placed on 100% remote learning.

Classroom Relocation

- Student seating has been reviewed in all classrooms. Although it was determined that all classrooms have met social distancing requirements, two classrooms were marginal. Therefore, these two classrooms have been relocated to the library and music room.

Masks

- Going into this school year districts did not have any experience with students wearing masks. Like you, we relied on the opinions of health officials and the limited amount of studies that existed. For the most part the information we relied upon proved to be accurate. Now with more than three months of experience to rely on, our understanding of the use of masks has increased significantly.
 - First, overwhelmingly students don't have issues with wearing masks when timely "masks breaks" are given.
 - Second, masks actually work. They are the single most effective way to limit the spread of the virus.

Therefore, **all students and staff will be required to wear masks except during "masks breaks."**

BCS has designed a schedule providing for periodic masks breaks throughout the school day. In addition, teachers will continue to use their discretion to allow additional "masks breaks."

Common Areas

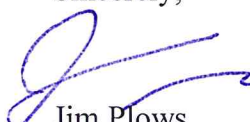
- The use of common areas such as; the district office, photocopier/printer rooms, lunch rooms etc. have been reviewed. As a result procedures have been adopted to increase social distancing in these areas. In addition, the photocopier/printer rooms used by students and staff have been relocated to larger rooms.

In conclusion, although the above changes will improve the environmental health conditions in our building, new challenges will arise. The district will continually monitor all aspects of this health crisis and take these challenges into consideration in our daily plans. Two such areas that pose considerable challenges are:

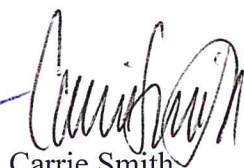
- **Rate of community transmission; if the rate of the virus in the community remains at high levels it simply may not be reasonable to have in-person instruction.**
- **Staffing;** as we experienced in December a high level of staff shortages may result in in-person learning becoming impractical. In instances of significant teacher absences caused by the pandemic students may well receive better instruction from remote learning where a higher level of continuity of instruction can be maintained.

Thank you for your continued understanding and cooperation as we navigate these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,



Jim Plows
Superintendent



Carrie Smith
Principal