



Baconton Community Charter School

Lynn Pinson, Administrator

260 East Walton Street

Baconton, GA 31716

Fax: 229-787-0077 lhpinson@bccsblazers.org Ph: 229-787-9999

August 3, 2021

Dear Parents,

We are sure you are concerned about the rise in the number of COVID cases in our area. We have been working together to come up with a plan that we feel will help keep us as safe as possible. We have made the decision to not host a school wide Open House this year, and we have asked our teachers to create "Welcome Back" informational videos for you to watch with your children. We would rather eliminate this large gathering as a precaution to help us get to our opening day of August 12 with no outbreaks.

For our new families, we will host an in person Open House on Monday, August 9th. Families are asked to attend with one parent or guardian, and their school age children. We will divide our families by alphabetical order, asking you to attend within your 30-minute block. We will have school personnel stationed around campus to help you find your children's classrooms. Our teachers will be ready to meet and greet your child and give you the information that you need to get started at BCCS. To give each family the necessary time, we ask that you do your best to honor your time slots and practice safety protocols including wearing your masks, using our hand sanitizing stations, and remaining a safe distance apart.

- Last names A – I, 5:00-5:30
- Last names J-R, 5:30-6:00
- Last names S-Z, 6:00-6:30

Uniform shirts will be sent home the first day of school. If you don't have shirts for your kids the for the first day, a Blazer T-shirt or collared shirt is fine. We will get your new shirts to you as soon as possible. As with most businesses, R and S is experiencing shipping difficulties and delays, but will have our shirts to us as quickly as possible.

This is not where we wanted to be with our new school year, but the safety of our BCCS Family is our focus. Our goal this year was to open our campus to our parents and re-establish our connections. We had planned to make masks wearing optional for students based on each family's level of safety concerns. With the surge in our community and the uptick in children testing positive, we want to take the first two weeks of school and really hunker down and see where we stand. Our families are coming off of trips and vacation where COVID is prevalent, and we need to do all we can to make sure we don't have significant outbreaks that will hinder us from having a successful start to the year. Our spirits may be a little dampened, but we have a great year planned. We are working hard to create an atmosphere to motivate, engage, and inspire our Blazers to be the BEST they can be.

Please see our 2021-2022 COVID Plan on the following page, and thank you for choosing BCCS and trusting us with the safety of your children. We feel good about the protocols we used last year to keep our campus safe, and we were pleased with the lack of spread we had here on campus. With the exception of temperature checks, our plans are to continue those same measures, with a renewed emphasis on staying safe and being responsible.

Thank you for your patience as we navigate this new season of the pandemic,

Lynn Pinson

1. SCHOOL OPERATIONS

- a. At this time, BCCS plans to return to face to face instruction with protocols and procedures for the safety of the students and staff. We look forward to welcoming you and your child to school.
- b. **Open House, School Cafeteria, Assemblies, Field Trips, etc.**
 - i. **At this time, Open House will be postponed until we see an improvement in the community spread. An in person Open House will be provided for new families only.**
 - ii. **School Cafeteria plans will include spacing students as much as possible, no community use of the microwave, and mask worn while in the serving line**
 - iii. **Field Trips will be on hold until the protocols for the venues are established, and parent volunteers and visitors will be postponed until the spread lessens.**
- c. **As the COVID situation is fluid, any changes to the Department of Public Health (DPH) or the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines may result in changes to school procedures.**

2. MASKS

- a. On our buses for extracurricular events, masks will be required for students and staff, as per CDC guidelines.
- b. In the school building, masks will be recommended for large gatherings, areas where distancing is not available, and entering and exiting the buildings and classrooms. Once the spread is lessened, masks will be recommended and optional for students based on family safety concerns, and optional for all vaccinated staff

3. QUARANTINE and CONTACT TRACING:

- a. Individuals who are fully vaccinated for COVID
 - i. ARE NOT required to quarantine when exposed to someone with a confirmed COVID case. *Individuals are considered fully vaccinated 14 days after their last shot.*
- b. Individuals who are not fully vaccinated for COVID-19
 - i. ARE NOT required to quarantine when exposed to someone with a confirmed COVID case if they meet the following conditions:
 1. Both people were correctly wearing masks throughout the entire encounter AND the individuals maintained 6' social distancing.
 - ii. ARE REQUIRED to contact school administration regarding the case.
 1. Administration, with the aid of DPH, will determine any contact tracing.
- c. **Individual positive for COVID:**
 - i. BCCS will continue to follow current DPH and CDC COVID guidelines.

4. SOCIAL DISTANCING

- a. **Social distancing will be followed wherever possible guided by the common sense of our employees.**

5. HAND SANITIZING AND FACILITY MAINTENANCE

- a. **Sanitizing stations are set up in all areas of the school and the use of these stations will be emphasized daily**
- b. **Disinfectant sprayers are available to all teachers for their classrooms as well as additional measures taken by the school's maintenance staff/**

6. VACCINATIONS:

- a. COVID vaccinations are recommended but not required for staff or eligible students.