



Bacanton Community Charter School

Lynn Pinson, Administrator

260 East Walton Street

Bacanton, GA 31716

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

July 22, 2020

Dear Blazer Parents,

Over the last few weeks we have been meeting with our teachers and administrative teams to work through this confusing time for our school. We thank you all so much for responding to our survey to help us get a better view of your needs and concerns. I can say that in my 30 plus years of working in education, nothing has ever presented us with a greater challenge. Our goal has been to open on August 10th with a full face to face delivery of classes while at the same time offering a rigorous Remote Learning option for our most vulnerable families. Our focus has always been the safety of our students and staff.

At this time, we feel strongly that we need to adjust our calendar and re-structure our day with some temporary changes in services. These are trouble spots in our schedule and routine that do not allow a safe re-entry for our families. These changes are designed to be temporary for us as we gauge the effects that the re-opening of schools across South Georgia has on the health and safety of our community. We will follow up this school wide announcement with a detailed plan for Remote Learning and procedures for checking out the equipment your children need. For now, please see the following changes.

- Move our re-opening date from August 10th to September 8th for returning to campus for Face to Face instruction. September 8th will be our goal for a full re-opening for face to face pending the spread of Covid-19 in our community based on the Department of Community Health. This allows us time to make further campus space adjustments and complete the safety updates on campus that we feel allow for a safe re-opening.
- Academic Benchmark Assessments will be scheduled beginning the week of August 17th. These will be scheduled by the grade and will be administered either in person or remotely. Parents will receive a schedule of your child's testing date. This data is critical to our individual learning plans we will develop for our Blazers. With the time away from school and face to face instruction, we anticipate gaps and we want to be prepared to address those immediately.
- Begin digital instruction for all on August 24th through September 4th. The Georgia Department of Education continues to update its recovery plan for schools. With the community spread rising, we want to ensure that our Remote Learning Plan is the best it can be. Beginning our school year with a two-week training and troubleshooting time allows us to introduce all families to our new formats and platforms for Remote Learning, and will help us ensure that in the case of a shutdown, learning for our students can continue. We will be sending the guidelines for Remote Learning and procedures for check out of equipment beginning next week. We are asking all families to help us define the weaknesses, strengths, and any barriers to receiving the instruction so that we can make adjustments in this two-week period.
- **PENDING SERVICE CHANGES for when we open:**
 - Discontinue after school care for middle and high school students with the rationale that this age student is better able to care for themselves at home. This allows our elementary students to be spread more safely throughout our

after school staff. We will work with individual families who have expressed that this program is their only option. Our goal is to lesson our numbers in the after school program until we can secure additional staff.

- Discontinue our morning and afternoon bus routes. We only have one bus and there is no way to provide any safety measures for our driver and riders at this time.

Parents, we know you want your Blazers back in school. Our faculty and staff want to be back loving and interacting with your children. We have missed them so much. We know all of this presents hardships for your family. These decisions weigh so heavily on our administrative staff and our Board as we balance returning to our normal routine and keeping our people safe. Your input is important to us. We need to hear from you in this time to help us solve issues that you have that provide hardships for your family. We are prepared to work with each family to get you what you need. Stay connected as we continue to release updates.

We are all in this together!

Lynn Pinson

Baconton Community Charter School