BHMSD Students and Families:

Throughout the summer months, BHMSD faculty and staff have been preparing for the return of students on Monday, August 10. We look forward to greeting students as our schools reopen in a few weeks. Over the past weeks, we have been communicating and sharing multiple videos related to our reopening plan. All of the reopening videos can be found on our district website at www.bhmsd.org.

In light of Governor Holcomb’s press conference on July 22nd, I want to provide you an update on the district’s reopening plan for the 2020-2021 school year. In addition, we will be releasing a new video in an effort to clarify Governor Holcomb’s most recent Executive Order related to mandatory masks.

On July 24th, Governor Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-37 which requires all students in grades 3 through 12 and all non-students to wear face coverings or face shields while physically present in any building, facility, or grounds at all times. Within the classroom, students may remove their face covering or face shield whenever social distancing of six feet or more is possible. In classrooms where social distancing of six feet or more is not possible, students in grades 3 through 12 will be required to be worn. Face coverings and face shields may be removed during recess periods when social distancing can be maintained. Face coverings are only required for co-curricular and extra-curricular activities when not engaging in strenuous physical activity. Additional exceptions will be made as outlined by the executive order.

For BHMSD Schools, this mandate does not significantly change our reopening plans for students and non-students. Moving forward, BHMSD will still offer traditional, in-person instruction and virtual learning options.

For traditional, in-person instruction:
- Students in grades 3 and above and non-students will now be required to wear a face covering or face shield when moving about the school building.
- While in class, students will not be required to wear their face covering or face shield while sitting in their seats provided seats are at least 6 feet apart.
- BHMSD personnel will work individually with families and students with documented health circumstances that limit the use of a face covering or face shield.
- For transportation services, all students, regardless of their grade, will be required to wear a face covering or face shield while riding the school bus.
Families are encouraged to have additional face coverings available for their student in the event a face covering is lost or misplaced.

Limited quantities of disposable face coverings will be available if a student forgets or misplaces their face covering or face shield, but BHMSD does not have a sustainable supply of disposable face coverings to provide for students on a daily basis.

For virtual learning:

- BHMSD defines virtual learning as consisting of timely, active participation in the learning process via technology and video conferencing.
- Students will be expected to attend the virtual classroom using the same time structure of a traditional day of school. For example, a high school student will be expected to remotely connect to each period class to participate in the real-time, live instruction provided by teachers and instructional assistants.
- Tardies, absences, and truancies will be recorded for virtual learners in the same manner as traditional classroom attendance.
- Students opting for virtual learning may be unable to enroll in specific courses due to the requirements of hands-on learning (e.g. Welding).
- Students will be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities.

Registration is open now at www.bhmsd.org and I encourage you to complete the registration process as soon as possible to allow our faculty and staff to best prepare for your student’s learning option.

School orientation will be on August 4 and we look forward to welcoming students back on our first day of school on Monday, August 10. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to work to provide a safe, healthy environment for all students, faculty, and staff.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brad Yates
Superintendent