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Southern Worcester County Regional Vocational School District
BAY PATH REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

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Kyle J. Brenner
Superintendent-Director

April 9, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians/Caregivers,

We are very excited to return to full in-person learning and I want to thank you all for your patience and understanding. More importantly, I commend your students for their resilience and dedication to ensuring that Bay Path remain a safe and healthy learning environment for ALL through their strict adherence to the many new practices and protocols.

Attached, you will find our full re-opening plan. We have been hard at work processing the data received from our family and staff surveys to develop a comprehensive plan to bring all students back to in-person learning. I encourage you to review this plan with your student. Additionally, I have provided a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) received among the survey responses.

If you have a question that has not been answered, please reach out to us and let us know. We are available to make this as smooth a transition as possible.

Sincerely,

Kyle J. Brenner

Kyle J. Brenner
Superintendent – Director

FAQ

Why are we doing this now?

While the Commissioner of Education has announced the return to in-person learning for K-5 and 6-8, on April 5th and 28th, respectively, he has yet to announce the date for High School grades 9-12. Our survey results from both families and staff overwhelmingly support the full return as soon as possible. Additionally, our data indicates a double-digit increase in failure rates among our students across all grades. Despite our efforts, this increase is closely linked to the remote days of our current hybrid model. Lastly, and most importantly, our students as well as students across the nation have seen double digit increases in social-emotional cases. Simply put, our students need to be back in school.

Is it safe to return all students?

As we have stated throughout this crisis; nothing is 100% safe. However, we are doing everything we can at school to make it as safe as possible. We have proven experience from successfully operating in our hybrid model to date. Additionally, both National and local data indicate that there have been relatively few cases of in school transmission. Having said that and with more students in the school, it is imperative that we not let our guard down. We **must** remain vigilant and strictly adhere to our proven health & safety protocols if we want to have a successful end of the year.

If I am in TECCA, can I return to in-person learning?

Students and families that elected to enroll in our TECCA model are in a semester-based program that does not align with our traditional quarter based in-person learning. While the curriculum meets established MA DESE content standards, the pacing and instructional materials differ. As such, students enrolled in TECCA will remain in TECCA so as to not disrupt their learning.

If I am a student in the Hybrid Model, can I elect to go full-remote?

Yes, our survey data indicates that roughly 2% of our students will chose full-remote learning. **If you elect Remote Learning Only (RLO), please contact your guidance counselor by Tuesday, April 20th** and let them know. Once we have the information we will finalize and communicate a specific RLO plan with you.

Will I need to bring a laptop/device to school every day?

Yes, we encourage all students that have a laptop/device to continue to bring either their school issued or own device to class. Please be sure to fully charge your device prior to coming to school. **Phones are NOT an acceptable device for daily learning.**

What will lunches look like?

Lunches will look much as they have all year. Students will eat in the cafeteria and gym. In the gym, individual tables and chairs have been situated such that all students will face the same direction and are spaced 6' apart. In the cafeteria, tables are clearly marked for students to remain 6' apart. Additionally, we will provide transparent (Plexiglas) dividers at tables where students cannot be spaced at the 6' distance. All tables, chairs and dividers will be properly sanitized between settings. When appropriate weather dictates, we will allow students to eat outside. We have erected an event tent on the property and individual tables and chairs will be spaced 6' apart. We will be keeping our current four-lunch schedule.

What about Wednesdays, will they be the same?

No. To comply with the MA DESE requirement for Student Learning Time, we will be returning to the full learning schedule on Wednesdays.

Will we still get mask breaks?

Yes. The mask break procedure remains the same. Teachers may take their classes outside to get a mask break. Please remember - even when you are outside, you must be at least 6' away from anyone else when not wearing a mask.

What happens if we have a COVID case in school?

If there is a positive COVID-19 case in school, we will follow the same protocols that we have been using all year. We will work with our medical personnel as well as State and local health officials to contact trace and quarantine all identified close contacts.

What if my student has to quarantine as a close contact and/or COVID-19 positive individual?

Any student that will need to remain home due to quarantine/isolation should contact each of their instructors to let them know. The instructor will notify the student what they need to do to remain current on coursework. As long as the student is symptom free and able to complete the required work, they will not accrue absences and or need to makeup missed assignments.in school,

Will my student be able to “just Zoom in” if they aren’t up to attending in-person?

The expectation is that students are returning to in-person learning every day. If you have a legitimate reason (i.e. COVID-19 Positive, under orders to quarantine/isolate, doctor’s note) for not being in school and your teacher has a Zoom link established for Remote students, you may join. You will not be allowed to join if: You are on vacation; You oversleep; You do not have a legitimate reason.

Reminder - If you are not feeling well, PLEASE STAY HOME and contact, our main office to discuss questions related to returning to school or to speak with the nurse. This will help us stay in school and prevent unnecessary contact tracing/quarantining. Coming back to school requires us all to follow the practices we did pre-COVID – arrive on time, attend class in-person daily, be where you are supposed to be....

How will student parking and pick up/drop off work with more cars?

The Dean of Students in conjunction with the Town of Charlton is currently working with the students and transportation coordinator for the temporary overflow of automobiles. A selected number of junior students will now have to park at Maynard Field at 10 Dresser Hill Road in Charlton for a two-week period. Students will be transported by bus to the school to and from the school. Senior students' Open Campus will begin on May 10th, which will free up on campus parking. Junior students will then be allowed back to park on school grounds in their pre-assigned parking spots. The Dean of Students will be meeting with all Junior students to discuss the plan.

Will we still have MCAS?

As of today, MCAS is scheduled for the month of May for grades 11 & 10, and early June for grade 9. The commissioner came out last week and indicated that he will be seeking the authority to waive MCAS for the Class of 2022. We will update the community when/if that is finalized. MCAS will be administered in school. If you are a fully Remote student, you may opt to come in for the exam, or you can wait until next year. Note: passing ELA & Math MCAS is a graduation requirement, so foregoing it this year means one less opportunity to take it and pass it in order to receive a high school diploma.

Do we still have to wear masks?

Absolutely. While there have been great strides in the distribution of vaccines, there is still work to be done and COVID-19 is not gone. The only time we are allowed to take our masks off is at lunch, when you have 6ft of social distancing, or on a mask break - where you also have to maintain social distancing as well.