

Suburban Bethlehem Reentry Plan

***This document will be linked to Fastdirect. Please check back often for changes and revisions as we move forward.**

Operating Assumptions

- Our return to school will look and feel different. SBLS families, students, and staff will need to remain flexible and understand that the priority of doing our best to protect the health of our students will require changes in procedures and communications.
- This reopening plan is based on the fact that our community is at this time at a level of mild to moderate spread according to the Allen County Health Department. There is no vaccine or cure for the virus, so there will be assumed risk in returning.

Guiding Principles

- SBLS will use the recommendations by the Allen County Health Department and the Indiana Department of Education.
- Although we will have some changes, what will not change is our efforts to educate and support each child to grow in their curricular knowledge, social interactions, and in their faith and love for the Lord.
- Our school theme this year is from Joshua 1:9: “Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God will go with you wherever you go.” This verse provides the foundation for our continued work to prepare students.
- We know that the plans laid out are subject to change based on the government, the CDC, and the Allen County Health Department. We will do our best to follow the guidance of these agencies and our school nurse. We will communicate any new information through Fast Direct.

Illness and Precaution:

- **Attendance:** The important part of attendance is the health and safety of all staff and students. As you send your child to school, you are communicating that they are feeling well. Students should only be sent to school if they are feeling well. If your child is not feeling well, please keep them home. If your child is experiencing any of the symptoms, please take them to a doctor or monitor them closely.

- **Signs and symptoms of Covid-19:**
 - A fever of 100.4° F or greater
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Chills
 - Repeated shaking with chills
 - Muscle pain
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - GI issues
 - New loss of taste or smell

- **Medical Inquiries:** When parents or teachers call in to report an illness, school personnel will inquire concerning Covid- 19 symptoms.

- **Return after Exhibiting Symptoms-**
 - Persons who have been self-quarantined, or removed or excluded from school, may return after:
 - They have not had a fever for at least 72 hours without the use of medication to reduce fever; and
 - Other symptoms such as coughing, or shortness of breath has improved; and
 - At least 10 calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
 - Please contact school administrator if a doctor has cleared your child of Covid-19 or to ask if other circumstances can be considered for reentry.
 - Persons who experience symptoms and have been tested for Covid-19 may return if, in addition to the above requirements, the individual has received two negative Covid-19 tests at least 24 hours apart, unless approved by the administrator.
 - If a person tests positive for Covid-19 but has exhibited no symptoms may return if:
 - They have not had symptoms of fever, cough, shortness of breath, after the test results; and
 - They have a written release by a health care provider to return to school.

- **School Response to a Confirmed Case:**
 - After it is confirmed that a person infected with Covid-19 was on school property, the following steps shall be taken:
 - Notification to the County Health Department
 - Implementation of sanitization efforts in areas where the infected person was engaged in the educational program.

- The principal may shut down the building upon recommendation of the County Health Department for such a time as is appropriate for the protection of our community.
- This year we have a designated sick room where students can sit or lay down if they are not feeling well.
- **Masks:** The use of face coverings will be dependent on a variety of factors. We do not plan on having the students wear masks all day, but students will need them available. Students will wear masks coming into school, leaving school, and when using common areas like hallways, the office, events or bathrooms. These masks will need to be laundered and brought back to school each day. We will supply each student with one. Parents can supply additional masks if desired.
- **Things to consider when playing it smart:**
 - If your child has allergies, but you see that something is changing, like a cough getting worse, err on keeping them home and monitor those symptoms.
 - If a parent or sibling tests positive, kids will need to be quarantined.
 - If a parent is quarantined because they may have been in contact with someone who had it, students may still come to school.

Absences/Closings/Remote Learning:

- Although we strongly believe students learn best by being at school with their classmates and teacher, we know this year, with the push to be cautious, could bring more absences.
- When a student is out three or more days due to illness, teachers will support families by providing instruction posted on Google Classroom or YouTube or through other formats like Zoom. Books and materials will still need to be picked up from the school.
- There are possibilities that school will need to close and remote learning put into place, depending on the situation. Please remain flexible and plan ahead of what you will do if this happens.
- Health department will be consulted and will advise if we have a positive case in the school.

Cleaning

- Washing hands will be done at arrival and at breaks, before and after eating, after using the restroom, and before and after recess. Hand sanitizer will also be available and used in each room.

- Teachers and staff will be wiping down frequently touched areas throughout the day. Each evening the school will be sanitized and disinfected.
- We will be limiting the entering of the building. Parents/visitors will not be permitted past the office area.

For the first week only: Parents of new/young students may walk them to the classroom their first week of school. Parents should enter and leave through the office door (Door 1) and wear masks. Please walk them in, drop them off, and exit promptly.

Social Distancing and other safety measures

- In classrooms, we will have students spread out as much as possible and all facing the same direction.
- Social distancing will be used in areas like lunchrooms. Some classes may take turns eating in their room or outside if weather permits.

Other Safety Measures:

- **Cohorts:** Students will be kept with their class most of the time. Based on our numbers and our desire to provide healthy interaction of students, classes may be put together with one other class. This will be considered their cohort. This cohort would be allowed interaction during recess activities. This number will never exceed 40 students.
- **Water:** We will discontinue the use of drinking fountains. Students may bring a water bottle that is clearly labeled with their name. Water bottles should only have plain water. One water bottle per day can be provided to the child if needed.
- **Lunch:** Students will be social distanced throughout the cafeteria. Some classes may rotate and eat in classrooms or outside when weather permits. No food sharing or giving will be permitted. Money for extra food or milk cannot be exchanged at the cafeteria window. If your child wants extras, you will need to let Mrs. Linnemeier know if your child can charge your account.
- **Arrival:** Parents will not be permitted to wait inside with their children or walk them to class. Parents may park in the upper lot and walk them to the outside doors, but we encourage students to be dropped off at the Commons Door (Door 7) if at all possible. Students may enter the building without being charged for morning latchkey starting at 7:30 a.m. Students will sit in areas around the Commons and Gym. Students will need to wear masks as they come into school and as they leave.

- **Dismissal:** After school, there will be no pickup of children by the office. Students will be spaced out in the gym instead of the outside carline area. Students will be called by families and sent out to meet their rides. We will load at least four cars at a time. When we have used this method in the past, carline was finished in 15 min. or less.
- **Before care:** We will still be providing morning latchkey at 6:45a.m. Students will be spread out around the Commons with limited numbers in the gym. Students should bring something to color or read. Food may not be shared but may be brought in for breakfast.
- **After care:** We know that some families have a need for afternoon latchkey. Safety measures will be more difficult to put in place during this time. We will keep the children into smaller groups of no more than 40 in a group. Wearing of masks will be encouraged but not enforced. Please discuss your preference on this with your child. Disinfecting of the area and materials will be done each evening. Snacks can be brought but may not be shared with others.
- **Upper Grades:** Students will go straight to homerooms in the morning without going to their locker first. The steps in the Commons will be only for going upstairs and the steps by the science lab will only be for going down. Teachers will have a schedule of when students can go to the locker room and bathrooms that will be adhered to as much as possible. Students will be spread out as much as possible. Masks will be used in the hallway or when students need to work closer together.
- **Birthday treats:** Treats must be prepackaged snacks.
- **School Supplies and Manipulatives:** Students will use individual supplies. They will not be shared. If any items will be used by more than one group of students, they will be disinfected before the next use.
- **Recess and PE:** Recess and PE will be outside when possible. Students will be separated from other besides the ones in their cohort. Students should not bring toys from home for use during recess. Masks will not be worn during physical activity.
- **Bathrooms and Hallways:** The number of students allowed in the bathroom will be limited. Students will go in with members of their class as much as possible. Classes will be assigned a time to go to the bathroom. If a student has to go to the bathroom at another time, they will be allowed. Students will wear masks when in the hall and bathroom. Signs will be posted reminding the students to limit the number of people in the bathroom and to wash their hands well.
- **Sports:** Wait for more information from the athletic director. Fans will need to be masked and socially distanced. Attendees may be limited in order to accommodate this. When the event is over, fans should head out of the building and not gather to visit.

- **Open House and Parent Teacher Conferences:** Our annual Back-to-School Night will look different this year since we cannot host you in person this year. The teachers will be posting welcome videos on the school YouTube Channel describing the upcoming year. Links will be sent out through Fast Direct. These videos will be posted on Thursday, August 6. Teachers will be setting up phone calls or zoom meetings with parents to answer questions they may have. We hope in this way that parents feel informed and welcomed by your child's teacher. Our first day of school will be Wednesday, Aug. 12.
- **Parent/teacher conferences:** Parent/Teacher conferences will also be scheduled through Zoom.

BE STRONG
— AND —
COURAGEOUS

Joshua 1:9