

Dear Family,

It is with great excitement that I write to you today... The Fighting Bees are coming back!

First, allow me to thank you for your continued support of our Team during this time away from the building. I know that we have asked much of your student and your family this school year. You have stood with us and supported the changes of staff and online learning each step of the way. I have never been prouder to "be a Bee!"

This next phase of learning may look different than our previous years. In August, I added a video to our BES facebook page that reminded all of us that this year we would need to use 'out of the box' thinking. Our teaching staff has worked hard at that challenge with online instruction! Now, we are asking for you to help us support your student as we move back into our building.

We will be following some new and stricter guidelines. These are critical in maintaining the safest transition for our learning community. What we do may look different than in years past, but we make these new standards with the focus of bringing our students and staff back to our school - and being able to keep all of us in the school for the remainder of our school year.

Please read over the guidelines thoroughly. I know that it is long and detailed - and I hate to admit that there may be changes as we move forward. We value the safety of our students and staff too much to leave some things to chance. Contact me by email or phone if there are any questions you may have.

Also, I know that there will be anxious moments over the next few weeks and months. Your student may need additional support and we are here to assist! I encourage you to continue reaching out to your classroom teacher. Honest and open communication will allow for the greatest level of assistance to your family. Mrs. Azar, our school social worker, is also available to talk with your student and offer caring guidance in this transitional phase. Her email is: [jazar@bathschools.net](mailto:jazar@bathschools.net). She can be reached at (517) 641-6771 or google phone number (248) 716-5741.

Thank you for believing in us and allowing us to take these next steps for all of our students. Change is hard, but when we do the hard things together the burden becomes lighter for all.

On to a successful rest of our year,  
Jeannine Brown  
Interim Principal  
Email: [jbrown@bathschools.net](mailto:jbrown@bathschools.net)  
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Google Text or call: (616) 843-0346

## Face to Face Learners:

Before leaving home for the school day, please assist us in establishing that your student is healthy and ready to navigate the school day in our building. **Any students experiencing any of the following Covid symptoms (cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, fever or chills, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, vomiting or diarrhea or a new loss of taste or smell) MUST remain home for the safety of all.** Please contact the office attendance line (641-6771) and your child's teacher to report the absence. IF your student is ill, check with your child's physician for the course of action. *(Also, if your student cannot wear a mask for the required school day, he/she will be directed to our online learning system.)*

\*Our F2F school days will be from 8:45 am until 12:05 pm Mondays through Thursdays. Your student will still have an asynchronous (online) learning day on Fridays. Please note: we will utilize staggered arrival and departure time to minimize congregating of students. Students arriving to campus by bus will enter through specific doorways for their grade level. Students will depart out the same doors. Students arriving by car will be asked to enter and depart through certain doors.

\*Morning arrival (for bus riders): These students will be contacted by Mr. Wright from the transportation department to establish your pick up location and estimated pick up time. His contact number is 641-6723 or email him at [dwright@bathschoools.net](mailto:dwright@bathschoools.net). Students must wear their masks. Students will be spaced by family and will have an assigned seating area that will be followed daily. Upon arrival to campus, students will depart their buses and gather in their grade level area - socially distanced from each other. Students may wait outdoors - please assist your student in dressing appropriately for the weather. Fresh air is a gift that we will embrace daily - wear a coat, hat and gloves as needed to enjoy this time!

Morning arrival (for car riders): Please do not allow your student to depart your car prior to 8:35 each morning. As visitors will not be allowed into our building this year, students will be dropped off in an orderly fashion. Families will be asked to drive into the parking lot and line up along the sidewalk. Please pull forward completely and follow the directions of the adults assisting in getting your student safely dropped off. **FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL, DROP YOUR SPEED IN THE PARKING LOT AND DO NOT PULL AROUND VEHICLES UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO DO SO - AT A SAFE AND SLOW SPEED.** Your student will exit your vehicle from the door closest to the curb as it is unsafe to have students crossing in front of vehicles. Please plan car seats and boosters accordingly. **YOUR STUDENT MUST BE WEARING HIS/HER MASK PROPERLY TO EXIT YOUR VEHICLE.**

\*Students will exit the car and walk to their gathering location. Please look for the signs with your classroom teacher on them. (NOTE: **Do not park your car by the sign.** *Your student will walk to that area under guidance from our team.*) **{Y5/K students}** - will enter their own classroom doors. When students exit their vehicles, they will be directed to that area. *[In the event that you have more than one grade of student and a Y5/K student, please drop your Y5/K student off in the parking lot at the new wing to meet an adult and then proceed to the main parking lot to drop off your older students.]*

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**1st grade students** - car riders will enter the doors into the gymnasium. Students will then walk up the stairs by the gym to their classes. **2nd grade students (all but Ms. Brent's class)** - these students will enter the doors by the flagpole. **3rd grade students (and Ms. Brent's 2nd grade class)** - these students will enter the building through the foyer and go to their classrooms. **4th and 5th grade-** students will enter the building through the doors near the art room.} This plan keeps all students within their 'zone.' Students will be reminded to distance as they wait. (These will be the same doors that those grade level students exit through at the end of the day as car riders.)

\*Remember, it may be cold. Your student should dress appropriately for outdoor weather. During inclement weather we may allow students entry into the building at 8:35. They will be spaced out within their hallway zone. Fresh air is a gift that we will embrace daily - wear a coat, hat and gloves as needed to enjoy this time!

\*Cars exiting the parking lot will be asked to go through the open metal gates and make a **RIGHT** turn onto Webster road. **IF ALL VEHICLES WILL TURN TO THE RIGHT, IT WILL ASSIST US IN GETTING YOU ON YOUR WAY IN A SAFE AND TIMELY MANNER.** (if needed, you may make a left turn at Walnut, left on High Street to a left on Main.)

\*Our time with students Face to Face will be extremely precious. Yet, we will still need to offer a 'buffer' of time to move students from place to place in small groups. PLEASE consider scheduling any appointments during the afternoon for your student as much as possible. PLEASE make sure your student is on time for arrival and pick up each day.

\*We will begin dismissing students for pickup about noon. We will need to dismiss in small groups to keep students safely distanced. Bus students will depart their specific grade level doors. Once those students have left the building we will begin dismissing our car riders.

\*Families will not be allowed to walk up to get their student. Your student may ride the bus (leaving from the back of the elementary) or be a car rider (leaving from the front of the elementary). **THERE WILL BE NO OTHER OPTIONS AT THIS TIME! WE MUST KEEP AN ORDERLY DEPARTURE SCHEDULE FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF.**

\*You will enter the elementary parking lot from the drive 'at the top of the hill.' ***FOR THE FIRST DAY BACK (10/19), PLEASE USE A PIECE OF PAPER AND MAKE A SIGN WITH YOUR STUDENT'S LAST NAME, GRADE AND TEACHER ON IT.*** Please put this sign in the windshield on the passenger side of your vehicle. One of our staff will then radio into the building for your student as you continue to drive into the parking lot staying to the sidewalk side. (Your student will bring home two signs the first day to use in identifying pick up vehicles.)

\*Please drive all the way up until a BES staff member asks you to stop. *All of your students will come to your vehicle - exiting the building through their classroom designated doors.*

**\*YOUR STUDENT WILL ENTER YOUR VEHICLE FROM THE SIDE CLOSEST TO THE BUILDING** - please make sure that car seats or booster seats will allow your student to enter the vehicle from this side.

\*You will then be instructed to pull out from the curb and continue on exiting the parking lot at the open metal gates and **TURNING RIGHT ON TO WEBSTER ROAD.** (For the safety and security of all, **only** right turns out of our parking lot during arrival and departure times. REMINDER: right out of the parking lot onto Webster, left onto Walnut , left on High Street then left on Main Street).

\*YOU MAY NOT PULL AROUND A STOPPED VEHICLE UNLESS A BES ADULT MOTIONS YOU TO DO SO. Remember - this is a parking lot, not a raceway. Our children deserve adults who are following safety rules to keep all of us safe! **THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR PATIENCE AS WE LEARN AND FOLLOW THIS NEW PLAN.**

#### **In the classroom:**

\*Students will be dismissed to their classrooms by grade level. ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF WILL WEAR A MASK.

\*While in class, students will be spaced to the extent of allowable distance within their classroom. Students will have an assigned seating area and their own classroom supplies.

\*We will NOT be utilizing lockers at this time due to the 'congregating' appeal of them. Your student may bring a backpack and appropriate garments for the weather. Students should NOT be bringing toys or other items to school. Cell phones should be turned off and must remain in backpacks - or at home. **LIMIT THE AMOUNT OF ITEMS YOUR STUDENT BRINGS** - if you have questions about this, please direct those to your student's teacher.

\*Our teachers have made alterations to their room environment to assist in making more room to spread students out. We will continue to do so! Students will be asked to respect the space of others at all times.

\*Your teacher will be contacting you with specific classroom details, schedules and instructions. If you have any questions, please contact them. Make sure your classroom teacher (and the office) have current contact information for you. **KEEP YOUR PHONE WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES IN CASE YOUR STUDENT NEEDS YOU!**

\*If students become ill during the morning, we will be contacting you for pickup as needed. If your child develops any COVID symptoms - or is asked by your physician or the Health Department to quarantine - please make sure to alert the office. We will then begin the 'contact tracing' for that classroom or bus to keep students safe and informed as much as we legally can.

\*Understand that our goal is to have students with us each day. Should your student or a section of our school need to be quarantined at home, students will then be allowed to participate in the PM online section of the school day. (This is only during this timeframe and with notice from your classroom teacher.)

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\*Students can order a sack lunch/tomorrow's breakfast to be taken as they depart the school each day. Contact our Food Services Director Ms. Zeeb if you have any questions. Her number is 641-7068 or email her at [czeeb@bathschoools.net](mailto:czeeb@bathschoools.net). Sack lunches will be delivered to the classrooms prior to student departure each school day, Monday through Thursday.

\*Online specials will be available for all students from 12:45 until 1:30. During the online afternoon session your child's teacher will be meeting with the online students. Please be respectful of your teacher's time with these students - as we will ask them to respect the morning time when the teacher is with your students. Your student may have additional activities or small group meetings during the afternoon session. Your classroom teacher will establish this routine with you.

\*In order to provide a safe environment for our students and staff, we will not be allowing outside visitors into our buildings this year. This will mean that class parties will be just the teacher and students. No outside food allowed (for birthdays or party days). Your child's teacher may talk with you about snacks during the classroom day. Please know that this will be kept to a minimum since the greatest risk to students and staff comes when masks are removed.

**Fridays:**

\*Fridays will be online for ALL students in our district at this time. Your classroom teacher may use this time for small groups (as scheduled by the teacher), for additional learning opportunities either online or paper/pencil or this time can be used to make up any missing assignments.

The plan that you have chosen for your student will run until December 18. If you choose to move your child from our Face to Face learning section into the online section, you may do so until December 18. (Your student will not be allowed to go back and forth. We will survey for the second semester early in December.)