

March 3, 2021

Bath School Community,

Over the past several weeks, we have been working on what our instructional days will look like for the remainder of the school year. From the start of this year, we have worked hard to teach our students in a safe and effective manner. With that being said, we have always had a goal of providing our students as normal of an experience as possible while maintaining everyone's safety. The current state of the pandemic (3.2% positivity rate and 65 new cases per million) and the number of students who would return to school if a full day were offered (71% up from 48% in November), make this the right time to begin this next phase. Therefore I have recommended to the board that we begin the process of moving to a full day of instruction for the majority of our students. Below are the details and timeline for our return to face-to-face instruction. Please look for more information coming from each of the schools in the next few days.

Bath High School:

Students will be able to attend all day beginning March 15th. We will be running a concurrent instruction model. Virtual students and face-to-face students will attend class at the same time and receive the same instruction.

Bath Middle School:

Students will be able to attend all day beginning March 15th. We will be running a mixed schedule. Some classes during the day will be all virtual and some will be a mix of virtual and face-to-face students. For example, a 7th grade ELA teacher may have a first hour with all of the virtual 7th grade ELA students. Second hour for the teacher would then be 7th grade ELA with a group of face-to-face students. Some classes, such as Algebra I and electives, will be taught concurrently.

Bath Elementary School:

Students will be able to attend all day beginning on April 5th. There will be one section of virtual students for each grade level with the face-to-face students divided up among the grade-level teachers teaching face-to-face. Unfortunately due to the rearrangement of teachers and assignments, we will need to change some student schedules. I know this can be a difficult issue, but we need to make some adjustments so we can bring back students safely. Some virtual students will also have a change in teacher, even if they are staying virtual. We will not be taking teacher requests for these changes and appreciate your understanding.

Other information regarding a return to full days of instruction.

Lunches: In all buildings we have expanded the number of locations for students to eat lunches. Besides using the cafeteria we will be utilizing various spaces such as the foyer in the high school, the band room in the middle school, and the STEAM room at the elementary just to name a few. These additional rooms will allow us to space our students out while they eat. It will also allow us to keep each elementary class together while they eat lunch. Due to the new full-day schedule we will be combining all of our food distribution locations to one location, the middle school.

Fridays: We will continue to keep Fridays asynchronous. This will allow for teacher planning, small group work, individual student meetings, mental health check-ups, staff meetings, PD and other events that would normally require a substitute teacher.

Masks: Masks are required for all students and staff at all times unless eating or alone in their classroom. Masks breaks may be given.

Elementary Specials: We will offer in person specials to our elementary students. Special teachers will push into the classrooms on a regular basis.

Food: Students face-to-face will eat in the building at various locations as previously mentioned. Students will be able to pick up a next-day breakfast to eat prior to coming to school the following day.

Cleaning: We are adjusting our cleaning schedules to ensure that each room is sanitized prior to the start of the next day. Special attention will be paid to restrooms and common areas where food is eaten.

Student Safety: We will continue to ask you to monitor your students prior to coming to school. If there is a question of whether to send your child or not, please err on the side of caution and keep them home.

Finally, if you would like to change your preference of virtual or in-person instruction please contact the office of your student's building prior to Sunday, March 7th at 11:59 p.m. If you call over the weekend please leave a voicemail message. On Monday we will begin finalizing our class lists and we do not plan on honoring any change request for the remainder of the year.

Respectfully,

Paul Hartsig
Superintendent