



REOPENING PLANS FOR FALL 2020

AS WE PREPARE for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year, we recognize that parents, students and staff are ready to kick-off the year with as much normalcy as possible. While we are excited for our students to return to the school buildings, we know that some of our students will benefit from continuing their education in a remote learning environment due to health and safety considerations. As a result, Big Walnut Local Schools will be offering two learning options for the 2020-2021 school year, in-person learning and remote learning. Working together, we can ensure that we continue to inspire and guide our students during the 2020-2021 school year.



SCHOOL CALENDAR

In order to prepare our staff for the logistics of this school year and provide training, we are likely to modify the calendar for this year:

- AUGUST 17: STAFF RETURNS**
- AUGUST 24-28: K-12 STAGGERED START***
- AUGUST 31: K-12 FIRST DAY OF FULL-DAY LEARNING**

Due to special constraints for Preschool, TBD
At this time, we do not anticipate the last day of school being changed.
**More details on the staggered start will be forthcoming.*



FOR MORE INFORMATION

See our FAQ page at bwls.net



In order to finalize plans for staffing,

FAMILIES MUST SELECT AN OPTION BY July 20



www.bwls.net

Go to the *Select an Option* button on our website. It is important to make a selection for each child in your family.



IN-PERSON LEARNING

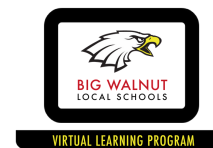


This option represents a return to the typical school environment and schedule. Increased health and safety precautions will be in place, including requiring all staff members and students kindergarten and higher to wear facial coverings.

Students may be switched to remote learning or a hybrid model if COVID-19 conditions worsen in a building, throughout the district or if mandated by the state.



REMOTE LEARNING VIRTUAL LEARNING PROGRAM



This option represents students learning at home using a district provided Chromebook. Big Walnut will partner with a virtual curriculum provider to deliver remote learning via digital lessons and teacher interaction. Depending on enrollment, some classes may be instructed virtually by BW staff. Students enrolled in this model may not have access to all classes that may otherwise be offered in the in-person learning option.



SWITCHING OPTIONS

A continuous and consistent learning environment is best for student success. For the sake of continuity, transfers from one learning option to another should not occur during the semester (August-December or January-May). A process will be outlined for students experiencing extenuating circumstances during the semester.

HEALTH

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Big Walnut families will be expected to take student temperatures and do a symptom assessment daily before school.
- If students exhibit symptoms at school, they will be taken to a room set aside for possible COVID-19 cases, and parents/guardians will be notified to pick them up and to visit a medical professional.
- Social distancing will be practiced to the greatest extent possible.
- Cleaning and sanitizing buildings, especially high-contact areas, will be a high priority.
- Hand sanitizer will be made available in classrooms and common areas.
- Students will be educated on the importance of hand washing, hygiene, social distancing and the wearing of facial coverings.
- Facial coverings will be required for students in kindergarten and higher, unless they are unable to do so for a health or developmental reason.
- Staff members will be required to wear facial coverings, take temperatures and do a symptom assessment daily before work.
- Visitors and volunteers will only be allowed in extenuating circumstances.
- Classroom doors will remain open as much as possible.
- Water fountains will be closed, but water-filling stations will remain open. Students should bring their own water bottles.
- Student lockers will not be used.
- Field trips will not be allowed.
- Students will be required to bring their own school supplies, rather than sharing with the class.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

CAFETERIA

- Consistent seating will be used.
- Hand washing or hand sanitizing will be required before and after lunch.
- Students will be socially distanced to the greatest extent possible.

TRANSPORTATION

- Parents are encouraged to transport their children to and from school when possible.
- All students will be given assigned seats (drivers required to have assigned seating lists updated and available at all times). Siblings will sit together.
- Students will be expected to use provided hand sanitizer when getting on and off the bus.
- High-contact areas on buses will be disinfected between runs.
- Each bus will be thoroughly disinfected at the end of each day.
- All students will be expected to wear facial coverings on school buses.
- Drivers will be expected to wear facial coverings.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Extracurricular activities will resume and will adhere to recommendations from OHSAA and the state. Athletes will be required to wear facial coverings while on the bus and in locker rooms, but not during competitions.
- Remote learning students will have the same extracurricular opportunities as students doing in-person learning.

- Social distancing will be practiced to the greatest extent possible.
- Hand washing or hand sanitizing will be required before/after recess.
- Facial coverings will be strongly recommended.



RECESS

FAQ



IF AFTER READING THESE FAQs, YOU STILL HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT OUR CENTRAL OFFICE

QUESTIONS@BWLS.NET 740.965.3010

1 **What happens after I select a learning option for my child?**

After making a selection for your child, you will receive an automatic email confirmation. If you do not make a selection by July 20, you will be contacted.

2 **Will my student stay enrolled in his/her home school while participating in remote learning?**

Yes. Students remain enrolled at their home schools while completing course work through remote learning.

3 **Why is the District not offering a hybrid model?**

At this time, the District will not be offering a hybrid model. Our Pandemic Response Committee evaluated many options and found that the hybrid model offered many logistical challenges. It also included a higher risk of exposure with students of working parents/guardians potentially attending multiple childcare centers on days they are not in our school buildings. We may consider a hybrid option if COVID-19 conditions change in the District.

4 **Will my student have an assigned teacher?**

Students enrolled in remote learning will be assigned a Big Walnut teacher to support their learning, based on grade level and course enrollment.

5 **What will elementary related arts look like?**

Elementary students will engage in related arts classes in both the in-person and remote learning option. In-person classes will practice social distancing to the greatest extent possible.

6 **Is the remote learning option identical to what students experienced during the final months of the 2019-20 school year?**

Based on feedback from students, staff, and parents, we have redesigned remote learning to include more interaction between students and teachers, more accountability for students and more rigorous expectations.

7 **What courses are available through remote learning?**

Students will be provided with English/reading, math, science, social studies and some electives/specials courses through Big Walnut staff and a partnership with a virtual curriculum provider. Students enrolled in this model may not have access to all classes, particularly electives/specials courses, that may otherwise be offered in the in-person learning option.

8 **Will there be materials, devices or WiFi available for remote learning students who have a need?**

Big Walnut will provide a Chromebook for all students who are enrolled in remote learning. WiFi hotspots will be available to students if there is no access to the Internet at home. Other resources such as printed texts, manipulatives and learning resources may be distributed based on students' schedules.

9 **Will students doing remote learning have access to advanced, honors or AP classes?**

Depending on enrollment, some advanced, honors or AP courses will be provided in remote learning. We will make every effort to provide students their requested courses.

10 **How will College Credit Plus courses work?**

Big Walnut will follow guidance from Columbus State Community College related to College Credit Plus courses. Please contact College and Career Readiness Coordinator, Penny Sturtevant pennysturtevant@bwls.net

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Will students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) or 504 Plans receive accommodations in the remote learning option?

11

If a family of a student with a disability chooses to enroll in remote learning, the student's IEP or 504 Team will convene to consider possible changes to the student's IEP/504 plan to address programming and services in this alternative format. The District may not be able to make all classes, programs, services, and supports available in a remote environment. While students will have access to many accommodations, please note that some accommodations may not be possible to implement in the remote educational setting.

How will IEP and 504 meetings take place during the 2020-21 school year?

We are committed to providing families an opportunity to have meaningful participation in the IEP and 504 processes. Whether in-person or an alternative format, such as videoconferencing or by phone, IEP/504 teams will partner with families to determine the most practical format to conduct annual meetings.

12

Will my child receive gifted services in both the in-person and remote learning options?

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Gifted services will be offered through both settings with the regular education teacher and/or gifted intervention specialist.

How will my English Learner (EL) child receive services during the remote learning option?

Students who qualify for EL services will receive individualized and/or small group instruction and support from the district EL tutor, similar to in-person learning.

14

What if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?

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The Delaware General Health District (DGHD) will notify the district if a student or staff member tests positive. We will cooperate with the DGHD staff members as they work with individuals who have been in contact with the person infected. Our reopening plan is designed to limit the chances of infection and to limit the disruption to a school or workplace in the event of an infection.

How will attendance be addressed if a student is required to quarantine due to a positive test/COVID-19 contact?

16

While we are still awaiting guidance from the state, the District will take a commonsense-approach to tracking attendance during the pandemic.

What about face shields?

We are still awaiting guidance from the DGHD in regards to wearing face shields instead of facial coverings.

17

Will parents still be allowed to attend athletic contests?

18

At this time, we do not know what will be allowed. We will make every effort to have parents present at athletic contests.

Will we be offering band, choir and orchestra for in-person learning?

At this time, we are planning to offer both band and choir in person. We are still working through the logistics and safety measures.

19