

Greetings BCS Families,

We've had a Learning Strong summer in Birmingham City Schools, and now we are prepared for an exciting 2021-22 school year. We are looking forward to seeing all scholars in school on Monday, August 2, 2021.

About 3,900 students participated in summer learning and enrichment this year through BCS. I know this will have a significant impact on success in the coming months. I commend our scholars and parents for embracing these learning opportunities. I also appreciate the faculty and staff who supported enrichment programs throughout the summer, as well as the bus drivers and nutrition workers who provided meals for our scholars at school and throughout the community.



It's now time for us to focus on the new school year. We are still in a pandemic, so we will strictly follow science-based health and safety protocols in all BCS schools and facilities in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Currently, the CDC guidelines recommend that masks be worn indoors in all school facilities for grades K-12.

We will have in-person teaching and learning, and we will offer the full range of extracurricular activities for our scholars. This may change, depending on the spread of the virus and recommendations from public health officials.

Please review the information below to learn more about guidelines for the upcoming school year. If you have additional questions, reach out to your local school.

Thank you for entrusting the education of your scholars to Birmingham City Schools – your first choice in education.

Sincerely,

- *Dr. Mark Sullivan*

Dr. Mark A. Sullivan, Superintendent

INSTRUCTION

- We will have traditional, in-person instruction and learning at each school.
- All students will attend school five days a week.

DEVICES and TECHNOLOGY

- The school district provides electronic devices for all students.
- Hotspots will be available for students with limited or no access to the internet.
- Devices will be checked out to students at the beginning of the school year.
- Schoology will be used to facilitate technology engagement in the traditional school model including instructional support, communication, and collaboration with students and parents.

SAFETY AND WELLNESS

Social Distancing

- Students and staff will respect personal space in all school areas and activities.
- Visitors allowed on a pre-approved basis for certain scheduled activities.
- Students will have assigned seats in classrooms.

Masks

- All students, employees and visitors must wear masks in BCS schools and facilities.

Vaccinations

- All eligible students and staff members are encouraged to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Cleaning & Hygiene

- All school areas will be cleaned and disinfected daily.
- Schedules will be adjusted to clean and disinfect common areas on a more frequent basis.
- Students and staff will be instructed to follow strict hand-washing and hygiene routines.

On The Bus

- All students will have assigned seats.
- Buses will be cleaned and disinfected after morning and afternoon runs

Breakfast/Lunch

- Each school will decide on meal distribution on their campus to provide the most appropriate social distancing.
- Surfaces will be sanitized between meal service times.

Health Services

- All ADPH guidelines will be enforced.
- Students should be fever-free (less than 100 degrees Fahrenheit) without the use of fever-reducing medication for 24 hours before returning to school.

Athletics

- We will follow all ADPH and AHSAA policies in regards to capacity, social distancing, etc.