



Blacksburg New School

www.blacksburgnewschool.org

2500 North Main Street, Blacksburg VA 24060

540-552-6693

Est. 1971

August 27, 2020

Dear BNS Community,

I decided it was prudent to let a couple of weeks pass before I sent out another weekly update (that, and, I needed a couple of weeks before the next one!). There are still many aspects of our new normal that we are all settling into, and I know that things will continue to develop and change over the coming weeks. Schedules are coming to together – if they haven't already – for your child(ren)'s classroom(s), brand new desks are being delivered and assembled this week, outdoor classrooms are going up this weekend, ... changes are happening!

With that said, it seems that we, our teachers, and our kids are also settling into some new routines. I've witnessed it at drop-off (anyone else remember the days when we lingered in the classroom or playground for 15 minutes?!), during the day as our kids maintain airplane arms and patiently give distance as they pass through the playground fence, and at pick-up. I have also heard that canvas and zoom are becoming easier for even our young learners to navigate and that at-home learning is becoming familiar as well.

We are very close to having our updated external facing website up and running, at which point these weekly updates will be posted there. In the meantime, and as before, you will find our weekly update files in [this google drive](#) and this [dropbox folder](#).

A few updates and reminders are below. Thank you all for continuing to be a part of our community.

Sincerely,
Kiyah (on behalf of the BNS board)

Classroom Board Representatives -

Red - Courtney Simón Grohs; csgrohs@gmail.com

Orange - Jen Irish or Robert Weiss; jennifer.l.irish@gmail.com or weiszro@gmail.com

Yellow - Cindy Smith; clsmith125@comcast.net

Green - Kiyah Duffey; kiyah.duffey@gmail.com

Turquoise - Julie Fox; juliefox.nrvbirth@gmail.com

Blue - Cara Daggett; caranew@gmail.com

Purple - Stan Harvey or Kiyah Duffey; stanford.a.harvey@gmail.com, kiyah.duffey@gmail.com

Ombudsperson – Lauren Catherwood-Ginn, ombudsperson@new-school.org

Pick-up Routine and Signs

Although it seems to be going smoothly, there has been some concern raised about the practice of creating two lines of cars – one closest to the inner island in the parking lot and one closer to the curb and sidewalk in front the school. More than anything, it is a potential concern having kids cross one line of cars, especially when/if we are a little short-staffed during the 1:00 -1:30 time slot.

So, beginning next week, August 31, 2020 we are asking that you **line-up single file parallel to the sidewalk in the front of the school** (perpendicular to the parking spot lines there) **and leave the center “circle” (closest to the inner island) free for cars to safely pull out and around the line of cars as they are loaded.** We are also asking that you *pull as far forward (toward the school mailbox) as possible* even if you have red, orange, or yellow room kiddos that exit the playground/school grounds at the gate closest to the art room. Pulling all the way forward when you get to the pick-up line – and if someone pulls out and leaves space in front of you – will ensure that we can maximize cars closest to the school and help to keep them moving through the line. **Plus, this will mean that kids can stay on the sidewalk (and in view of our afternoon helpers) at all times rather than needing to cross between cars.**

Related, I have created some BNS branded pick-up signs (in [this folder](#) and attached) that you can use and give to family members and friends who are authorized to pick-up your child. Using these signs will help our afternoon pick-up TRO parents feel better about letting your kids get into the car with someone they may not recognize (even if your child does!) These DO NOT need to be printed in color (you’ll see B&W options available as well as color). You can type or handwrite names. Anyone who would like this printed for them, please let me know and I’ll take care of it. **We would like to have your child’s class (GREEN) written in larger letters on top, and their first name only (Oliver) which should be written below their class.** Some examples are included for reference. *Again, if you would like me to make this for your family, please just let know.*

Travel Guideline

Travel guidance has been updated to reflect the need to use a 7-day moving average as compared to total case numbers. The updated [travel guidelines are here](#) and attached.

New Remote Liaison

I am pleased to welcome our new Remote Learning Liaison, Michaela Settle, for this school year. The goal of this position is to have someone available to support at-home families during in-person learning hours.

If you have a question Michaela will be available from **9am-1:30pm everyday of in-person learning**. Her school email is: remoteliaison@new-school.org .

Michaela will be able to assist with:

- How to navigate Canvas

- Troubleshooting technical problems
- Zoom questions
- Navigating Google Drive
- Finding/submitting assignments

She will not be responsible for deciding assignment due dates, grading, or creating content for students. Questions regarding these areas will still need to go to the relevant teacher. Please help me in welcoming Michaela to our community!