

January 30, 2021

Dear families,

As we get back into the groove of schooling, there are a couple of points the board and teachers wanted to be sure were shared with the BNS community in another update.

Re-evaluate Your Masks

The teachers and board would like to remind everyone to re-check the fit and filtration of their child(ren)'s mask(s). A good fit with no gaps or leaks is key – which means we don't want masks that are too small or too big. The question of adding additional filtration to masks has been raised and Linsey Marr has agreed to share some of her recent research results using HEPA filters in-between two layers of a cloth mask. We will share these results as soon as we are able. In consultation with the health committee, the teachers have decided that they will start wearing two masks in addition to their face shields. Although they have had their first vaccination, the newest strains of the virus are more contagious, so this is a simply additional precautionary measure we can take. If you want additional information about masks, you can find it here.

Spring Break Travel Planning

If your spring break [travel plans](#) involve [higher-risk activities](#), the board would like to remind you that you are encouraged to join the remote-learning option following your travel plans (and until it is again safe for you to return to in-person learning). As of now, the school does not plan to cancel spring break or to close to in-person learning as we did following the winter holiday. If you have questions about your plans, please reach out to me.

Fall 2021 Planning

The board has begun the process of planning for reopening, Fall 2021. What does that mean? Several things are happening:

- We are watching for expected federal guidelines from CDC and the Department of Education as well as state or local guidelines that can serve as the basis for our plans.
- The board and teachers involved in reopening 2020 planning have scheduled a meeting to debrief about the process and lessons learned. We will reach out to the broader planning committees after that as needed.
- We plan to touch base with our remote learning families in the coming weeks to see if/how their individual situations have changed and to begin the conversation of what they might need with respect to remote learning options for next year.

I know that we are all anxious – and excited – to go back to our pre-COVID lives and schedule. While I think that we are beginning to see signs of a light at the end of the tunnel, we are still a little way away from being able to simply return to life as normal. When we discuss this as a board, we talk about the importance of continuing to care for our vulnerable populations, provide the best education we can given our decision to provide dual modality learning, and to do everything we can to be ready for any changes to this decision that may happen in the coming months. We appreciate everyone’s ongoing patience as we work through this process.

Thank you,
Kiyah

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