

Blacksburg New School Statement of Community Expectations

**** Last updated 08/03/2021****

In the face of COVID-19, we have a collective responsibility as a community to protect our community, and this responsibility extends to our students, our teachers, our families, and the members of the local communities in which we live. It is critical to develop a common set of community expectations to foster the creation of a healthy environment in the face of COVID-19. This may require changes to daily habits, both on and off the school grounds, or continuing current practices. We are all in this together, and we need to be able to trust one another and know that we can count on our fellow community members. To that end, as part of the BNS community, we ask each family member to review and affirm the following:

I affirm that, as a BNS community member (defined as a student, teacher, or caregiver):

I will self-monitor and answer the Blacksburg New School health screening questions prior to drop-off each school day. I will take these questions seriously. The school is relying on this information to be accurate in order to keep students and teachers safe.

I will not send my child to school sick or if s/he shows any of the symptoms listed on page 3 of the VDH [When Should A Child Stay Home From School and/or Child Care](#) document.

If I am diagnosed with COVID-19, or if I am identified as a coming in [close contact](#) (defined on page 2) of someone with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, I will:

- Stay off of school grounds and follow all [health department instructions for returning to BNS safely](#).
- Cooperate fully with the health department for contact tracing ([here is what to expect](#)).
- Inform the school's onsite COVID-19 contacts, Molly Lucier (mollycavewmn@gmail.com) or TJ Stone (tjstonebns@gmail.com) via email within 12 hours of a positive test result.
- Follow The Health Department's recommendations related to isolation, quarantine, and monitoring of family members and siblings.

I consent to the anonymous release of positive COVID-19 test results for myself, my child(ren), or an immediate caregiver. The positive test information will be shared with the entire BNS community so each family can make an informed decision about how they would like to proceed. I will fully cooperate with the Department of Health on case and contact investigations, as necessary. BNS will notify the whole school of any positive test results in our community within 12 hours of us knowing. Names will not be disclosed.

I understand that parents are also asked to inform the school within 24 hours if their child or any member of the immediate household has developed any reportable communicable disease

(as defined by the State Board of Health; [Reportable Disease List](#) and including COVID-19). I will inform the school by contacting my child(ren)'s classroom teacher for non-COVID-19 communicable diseases and BNS's onsite COVID-19 contacts, Molly Lucier (mollycavewmn@gmail.com) or TJ Stone (tjstonebns@gmail.com), for COVID-19-related tests.

I will not attend in-person classes, social functions, or any other activity that involves interaction with others on BNS school grounds if I am, or anyone in my household is, experiencing any of the symptoms listed on page 3 of the VDH [When Should A Child Stay Home From School and/or Child Care](#) document.

I will wear masks and practice social distancing - both on and off school grounds - in all situations where required by our school, public health guidance, and state or federal laws..

I will follow the [Centers for Disease Control](#) and [Virginia Department of Health's](#) behavior guidelines and will review those policies with my children. In order to support the health of the entire community, I will follow the latest guidance from the Blacksburg New School as outlined in electronic communications and other updates from the Board. I will follow BNS's health protocols even if public health recommendations are less stringent.

I will practice good respiratory etiquette, which includes covering one's cough or sneeze and will follow [BNS's handwashing protocols](#).

When I'm out in the world, I will be responsible and mindful of my actions and how my choices could impact the larger BNS community. I will respect and follow the stated guidelines of local businesses and public spaces in the broader community.

I agree to refrain from sharing food and drink on school grounds until further notice.

I will support Blacksburg New School, the teachers, and students in complying with Blacksburg New School policies and public health recommendations. If needed, I will respectfully remind members of our community to comply with these expectations, and I will comply with them myself if reminded by another community member.

I understand and acknowledge that:

The members of our community are not in perfect agreement about how COVID-19 related policies should be created and administered, including changes to our school day and the mode of delivery of education. The stress many families are under for a variety of reasons at this time increases the likelihood that people may express certain thoughts and feelings to others in ways that are potentially hurtful. We must all make a particular effort to engage respectfully with each and every other member of our community. We must be committed to calmly and respectfully resolving any disputes that arise during this challenging time.

I also understand that I can reach out to any classroom board representative or our ombudsperson for assistance at any time. Their contact information is listed below.

Classroom Board Representatives -

Red - Kiyah Duffey, kiyah.duffey@gmail.com

Orange - Courtney Simón Grohs; csgrohs@gmail.com

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

Green - Cindy Smith; clsmith125@comcast.net

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

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

Purple - Stan Harvey or Cara Daggett; stanford.a.harvey@gmail.com, caranew@gmail.com

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