

October 1, 2020

Dear BNS community,

Hello everyone.

I'd like to first take a moment to remind us all that we have almost finished 7 WEEKS OF SCHOOL. I know that this has not been without costs that we are all paying, but I am so proud of every member of our school. Together, we are making this happen.

As we move into a new month, it's time for another update.

Various subcommittees have been working on procedures and processes that will be implemented in the event that individuals at BNS test positive for COVID or a concern is raised from someone in the community and the board needs to move to, or consider moving to, temporary remote only learning. These procedures will be reviewed and voted on by the board at the next board meeting (scheduled for October 14). They will be sent to the community at large one week in advance of that meeting along with the board agenda.

In a recent email from me, the board requested that our in-person learners and families avoid engaging in high-risk behaviors, especially while numbers in the community are high. Although I tried to emphasize this in my last message, it seems that I failed to make this point clearly, so I'm stating it here again:

***The primary reason for asking individuals within the BNS community to avoid high risk behaviors is to assure teachers that families whose children are attending BNS in person are following CDC risk mitigation procedures whenever possible.***

Teachers expressed comfort with BNS's internal risk mitigation procedures, but they need more reassurance that families will also be doing as much as possible [not to engage in high risk activities](#) *outside* of school. If we cannot commit to this as a community, we may find ourselves no longer being able to support our teachers to provide in-person education at BNS.

The communications subcommittee will be working on ways to provide more communication with the community about alternative choices (to those listed on the high-risk behavior guidelines) that are lower in risk.

We are also asking families to think carefully about activities surrounding Halloween. The CDC has guidelines for lower risk Halloween activities that families can use to celebrate (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html> - halloween). Please avoid celebrations where stringent risk mitigation cannot be followed, even events sponsored by the town or other government agencies.

As always, your classroom representatives are available for any questions, concerns, or words of support (they like those too!). Their email addresses are below. Thank you for being 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 & 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, stanford.a.harvey@gmail.com or Kiyah Duffey, kiyah.duffey@gmail.com