

Blacksburg New School Statement of Community Expectations

**** Last updated 08/15/2022 ****

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 myself and my child(ren)'s health. I will not send my child to school sick or if s/he shows symptoms suspected to be COVID-19. The school is relying on this information to be accurate in order to keep students and teachers safe.

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 follow [BNS's guidance](#) and communicate with the school's COVID contacts (COVID@new-school.org) with details.

I consent to the anonymous release of positive COVID-19 test results for myself, my child(ren), or an immediate caregiver if it is determined that the information needs to be shared with the community.

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 or anyone in my household suspects they may have or has tested positive for COVID-19.

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.

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 - Courtney Simón Grohs; csgrohs@gmail.com

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

Yellow – Danielle Lusk, penguin.danielle@gmail.com

Green - Robin Sanborn, rsanborn@gmail.com

Turquoise - Cindy Smith; clsmith125@comcast.net

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

Purple - Stan Harvey; stanford.a.harvey@gmail.com or Sarah Dunleavy, sldunleavy@gmail.com

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