

Bensenville School District 2

Parent Frequently Asked Questions

2020-2021

Updated 9/11/2020

Future updates will be noted as additional guidance or questions arise. [Click here to see the District 2 Reopening Plan for details pertaining to health protocols etc.](#)

Definitions

- Synchronous Learning -- Students gather in the same virtual space at the same time to connect with their teachers and one another.
- Asynchronous Learning -- Students engage with assigned materials and projects independently at their preferred time of day.

Effective remote learning blends both **synchronous** and **asynchronous** learning to maximize the time together virtually to build community and learn interactively, while also providing autonomy for learners to engage in and apply content, read, and problem solve.

Synchronous instruction is made up of two parts: whole-group and individual/small- group. **Whole-group synchronous** instruction involves real-time, interactive, teacher-led lessons where content is introduced and reinforced; activities include teacher modeling of content standards, launching projects, and class discussions. In **Individual and small-group synchronous** instruction students, participate in real-time, interactive, teacher-led lessons customized to their learning needs.

Students also engage in **asynchronous learning** throughout each day. Asynchronous does not mean “absent.” Asynchronous time is critical as it allows students time to apply and practice what has been taught through independent assignments. Teachers analyze these assignments and other assessments to determine students’ learning needs in order to form the individual and small groups effectively.

The remote learning environment was designed to deliver the best possible learning experience. This is why it begins with whole-group, shorter, more targeted lessons followed by independent application, followed by small-group clarification, re-teaching, and/or extension throughout the day.

Model and Schedules

1. What model(s) will be used for reopening schools?

Schools will reopen 100 percent remote on August 12 through October 9 (tentatively). Students attend school remotely from home following a schedule that adheres to ISBE’s requirement of 5 clock hours. Then based on data, schools would tentatively transition to the Hybrid Model starting on October 13. The Hybrid Model is defined as students attending school in-person two

days per week on a rotation (e.g., Tuesdays/Wednesdays or Thursdays/Fridays). As with monitoring health data, we will continue to research the best recommendations for the hybrid model. [Click here to see details for examples of all reopening models in the Bensenville School District 2 Reopening Plan.](#)

Blackhawk Middle School 100 percent Remote Schedule August 12-October 9 (tentatively)

- 7:50-8 a.m. Arrival: Students log onto the online platform to begin the school day.
- 2:55 p.m. Dismissal: End of school day, although students may continue working on assignments just as when school was in session.

On Friday, August 28, parents were notified in a video communication of changes to the initial BMS 100 percent remote learning schedule; changes were made to the initial schedules based on discussions among parents, teachers, and administration. The revised schedules, which were linked in the video communication, will go into effect on Wednesday, September 2. Students are also viewing a video within their Advisory, where their teachers will help them navigate the updates using a student-friendly schedule template.

Johnson & Tioga Schools (Grades Pre-K-5): 100 percent Remote August 12-October 9 (tentatively)

Your child's specific lesson schedule is posted on his/her teacher's Google Site.

- 8:50-9 a.m. Arrival: Students log on to online platform to begin their day.
- 3:30 p.m. Dismissal: End of school day, although students may continue working on assignments just as when school was in session.

Schedules were updated the week of August 24 based on discussions among parents, teachers, and administration. The revised schedules will go into effect on Wednesday, September 2. They will be communicated by the student's classroom teacher through email and SeeSaw. Teachers will also review the schedules with their students.

Note – Pre-K Program: While teachers are available within the 8:50 a.m.-3:30 p.m. time frame, the student schedule is customized. Each Pre-K teacher has her own customized class schedule based on student needs that includes synchronous and asynchronous learning, inclusive of pre-recorded lesson videos for parent convenience. The Pre-K schedules and activities are communicated to parents through SeeSaw.

Monday Schedule and Professional Learning Community (PLC) Team Meetings

Prior to school closures, the PLC planning meetings were scheduled on Tuesdays, with students being released early; they are now taking place on Mondays. As noted below, questions/messages posed during the PLC Monday time will be responded to the next business day.

- Blackhawk Middle School: Mondays – 1:25-2:55 p.m.
- Tioga and W.A. Johnson Schools: Mondays – 2-3:30 p.m.

2. How is attendance recorded?

Attendance will function the same as in normal school procedures prior to the COVID-19 closures. If a student is sick, parents call in to the school's office by 9 a.m., just like a regular

school day. If no phone call is received, the student will be marked absent. A call is sent out to parents so they are aware that a student has not logged in to record attendance.

3. How is curriculum and instruction different in this school year as compared to last spring when schools were first closed?

Given the abrupt closure of school last March, ISBE set procedures that led to the implementation of a generalized curriculum. For the 2020-2021 school year, curriculum and instruction will be implemented by grade and department. Staff has been working since the initial closure through the summer to develop engaging instruction for all students.

Also, back in March, Governor Pritzker mandated a “No Harm Grading Policy” due to the abrupt state-wide school closings. That mandate has since been lifted. For 2020-2021, students are expected to participate in all learning environments and complete assignments; grades will be based on both. Along the way, staff will support students on the specific assignments they submit through ongoing and frequent feedback.

4. How will my child access the remote lessons?

- Pre-K: Seesaw
 - Pre-K will predominantly utilize individual Seesaw classrooms to communicate classroom-specific information. Seesaw will also be the platform used by students to complete and turn in assignments. Teachers will be in contact with parents to get students connected to the Seesaw classroom.

- Grades K-1: Google Site and Seesaw
 - Kindergarten and first-grade teams will have a [grade-level remote learning Google Site](#) where information for parents and students will be posted. The website will provide parents with an overview of the weekly lessons, provide additional resources for students and parents, provide information about specials and specialists, and provide District and school announcements. The grade-level teams will continue to update these sites throughout the year.
 - Each Kindergarten and first-grade homeroom teacher will have a Seesaw classroom. Seesaw will be used to communicate classroom-specific information and will be the platform used by students to complete and turn in activities and assignments.
 - Specials (PE, Art, Music) will also have a Seesaw classroom set up for each Kindergarten and first-grade class. Seesaw will be used to communicate classroom-specific information, and will be the platform used by students to complete and turn in assignments.

- Grades 2-3: Google Site and Google Classroom
 - Second- and third-grade teams will have [grade-level remote learning Google Sites](#) where information for parents and students will be posted. The website will provide parents with an overview of the weekly lessons, provide additional resources for students and parents, and provide District and school announcements.
 - Each second- and third-grade classroom teacher will set up a Google Classroom that will be used to communicate classroom-specific information and will be the platform used by students to complete and turn in activities and assignments.
 - Specials (PE, Art, Music) will also have individual Google Classrooms set up for each second- and third-grade class. It will be used to communicate classroom-specific information and will be the platform used by students to complete and turn in assignments.

- Specialists will post work on the appropriate Google Classroom to provide their services to students.
- **Grades 4-5: Google Classroom**
 - Each fourth- and fifth-grade classroom teacher will set up a Google Classroom that will be used to communicate classroom specific information and will be the platform used by students to complete and turn in activities and assignments.
 - Specials (PE, Art, Music) will also have individual Google Classrooms set up for each fourth- and fifth-grade class. It will be used to communicate classroom-specific information and will be the platform used by students to complete and turn in assignments.
 - Specialists will post work on the appropriate Google Classroom to provide their services to students.
- **Grade 6-8: Grade-level Google Classrooms and Individual Google Classrooms**
 - Each grade level will have a Google Classroom where general grade-level information is communicated. The grade-level classroom will have the daily agenda, attendance, schedule, announcements, student tutorials, and grade-level SEL activities
 - Each classroom teacher will set up an individual classroom for each class they teach. This will have the specific assignments related to the class and students will access and turn in completed assignments through these Classrooms.
 - Specialists will post work on the appropriate Google Classroom to provide their services to students.

5. How can I see what work my child is completing?

- **Grades PreK-1/Seesaw:** Parents can join Seesaw as a family member and be connected to the classes your child is enrolled in. To do this, you can download the Seesaw Family app on a personal phone or access the Seesaw website as a family member. Classroom teachers will then invite you to join their classrooms as a family member. This will allow you to see posts from the teacher and your child. You will also be able to comment and message teachers.
- **Grades 2-8/Classroom:** You can sit alongside your child as he/she is logged onto Google Classrooms to see the work teachers have posted and students have completed. Parents cannot access the Google Classroom on their own, students need to be logged in. Parents can choose to receive a weekly automated email about your child's Google Classroom activities through a feature called Guardian Summaries. More information can be found [here](#).

6. What are the expectations for my child when participating in remote learning?

Staff are using a number of tools to ensure engagement and interest (e.g., Google Hangouts/Meet, Zoom, and GoToMeeting). We need your help to ensure these tools are being used appropriately by students:

- Caregivers should be mindful about what family activities would potentially be heard/seen during the students' use of video conferencing. This is a great tool to keep students connected, but please have your students use these tools somewhere near enough you can monitor, yet private enough to concentrate on their work.

- Please have students dress appropriately in a space that is appropriate for them to work (e.g., table, desk) when video conferencing, and make sure that there are no distracting materials or backgrounds.
- Monitor your child's assignments for completion. Contact the teacher if questions arise about the amount of time your child' is spending on assignments.

7. What socialization and student mental health supports will be provided to students?

The social-emotional well-being of our students remains a priority as we return to the 2020-2021 school year. We recognize the importance of connections and a sense of belonging as we create classroom communities.

Daily class meetings and advisory check-ins will be utilized in all scenarios to ensure our teachers have firsthand knowledge of each student. In addition to the incorporation of social-emotional learning lessons, we will continue our mindfulness educational experiences for all grade levels.

We are excited about the addition of multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) teams at each school this year as part of one of our USDOE grants. Under this project, social-emotional learning began in June with clinicians from all three schools working together to prepare professional development opportunities for all staff.

Teachers throughout the District attended a three-hour course on **Creating Trauma-Informed Schools through the PBIS Framework**. Participants looked at techniques to help students cope with stress and trauma with the goal of making students feel safe and comfortable when they return to school. Paraprofessionals were also invited to a professional development course on **Trauma Responsive Practices** through the Illinois Principal Association.

While District 2 has been a PBIS District (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) for years, we are now infusing our practice with direct SEL teaching and trauma-informed practices. Our PBIS coaches and clinicians attended an intensive 12-hour interactive training course through Midwest PBIS this summer. Our work focused on using the PBIS framework to enhance school culture, improve student engagement, and align structures and routines throughout our schools to better understand and respond to all students.

Our first weeks of school will focus on relationship-building. Instruction will be provided that will help students with emotional regulation, communication, and positive interactions with one another.

8. If my child has a question about an assignment, what do we do?

Students can pose questions about assignments by contacting their teacher during times specified on their schedules; these are the times that teachers are free from working with other students and available. Questions that are posted after hours will be addressed promptly on the next school day. If parents have questions regarding the amount of time their child is spending on assignments, please contact the teacher to collaboratively problem solve this situation.

9. What are the parameters for make-up work?

If an extended time is required, the student or parent will need to contact the staff member directly to discuss the circumstances.

10. Are there any learning activities that are required, or can my child complete whatever he/she would like to complete?

There are activities that will be identified as required to be completed, as well as others from which your child can choose in order to continue learning at home.

11. If my child has special needs or modified curriculum, how does remote learning address that?

The specialist or case manager partners with teaching staff in developing appropriate lessons; they also provide support and feedback to their students and caregivers.

12. How will special education be addressed?

District 2 is bound ethically and legally to meet the needs of students eligible for IEP and 504 services, and will continue to do so in remote environments.

Students who spend more than 50 percent of their school day within District 2 special education classrooms, including Academic Life Skills, Instructional Support Programs, Language and Social Skills Opportunities Program, and the Social Support Programs, will attend four days a week during a hybrid schedule. Class sizes are smaller and within the guidelines for social distancing. Special precautions will be taken as necessary.

Currently, IEP meetings will be held remotely. As we continue to follow the health department guidelines, this could change.

13. How will my child be graded?

Teachers will once again be issuing grades according to the District 2 calendar. Back in March, Gov. Pritzker mandated a “No Harm Grading Policy” due to the abrupt state-wide school closings. That mandate has been lifted. For 2020-2021, students are expected to participate in all learning environments and complete assignments; grades will be based on both.

Staff will continue to use the TeacherEase portal for documenting grades and assignments so parents are aware of their child’s work completion and progress. Summary progress reports will be posted in the portal according to the District 2 calendar.

Grade 1-8/TeacherEase: Parents can access TeacherEase to see students’ progress on formative and summative assessments given during the year. Summary progress reports will be posted in the portal according to the District 2 calendar:

- October 2: Trimester 1 Progress Reports posted in TeacherEase Portal.
- November 5: End of Trimester 1
- November 13: Trimester 1 Report Cards issued.
- January 15: Trimester 2 Progress Reports posted in TeacherEase Portal.
- February 18: End of Trimester 2
- February 23: Trimester 2 Report Cards issued.
- April 16: Trimester 3 Progress Reports posted in TeacherEase Portal.
- May 21: End of Trimester 3. Report Cards issued.

For more information about TeacherEase, please visit [this page](#).

14. How can I learn about the technology being used for remote learning?

The District website has links for parents and students to learn more about the technology used for remote learning; additional training for parents will occur throughout the year:

- [Parent & Student Tech Tutorial Site](#)

15. How do I know my child's Chromebook login information?

During the parent pick-ups days on August 5, 6, and 7, there will be a packet of technology information going home with students' Chromebooks. The packet contains individual student login information (Grades K-1 will have login cards, Grades 2-8 will have printed usernames and passwords), a how-to guide for connecting to Wi-Fi, a how-to guide for logging in, and technology contact information. It will include information about the parent/student technology website that has all of the technology tutorials.

16. What steps do I need to take to get my student started on the Chromebook?

Visit the [Parent/Student Tech How-To Resource Site](#) to view tutorials on how to use the device and apps that the District supports. There is a "Getting Started" page that will have tutorials on how to connect the device to your home Wi-Fi and get logged in.

17. Who do I contact for technology support?

- For **technology support** related to topics such as hardware, device, wi-fi, etc., contact your buildings' technology support specialist:
 - Blackhawk: Manny Manago, mmanago@bsd2.org or 630-521-2347
 - Johnson: Joe West, jwest@bsd2.org or 630-521-2348
 - Tioga: Val Mrugacz, vmrugacz@bsd2.org or 630-521-2352
- For **instructional technology support** related to such topics as help with certain apps or District subscriptions, contact your buildings' instructional technology specialist:
 - Blackhawk: Mrs. Corbett, mcorbett@bsd2.org
 - Johnson: Ms. Gutsell, mgutsell@bsd2.org
 - Tioga: *Position currently open*
 - If still open at the start of the year, please email both Mrs. Corbett and Ms. Gutsell for assistance

18. What if there is a power or Internet outage?

In the case of a community outage, due dates for assignments will be adjusted if needed.

19. What if our family does not have a home Internet connection?

Please contact your school principal to enquire about the availability of a mobile hotspot.

20. Will my child be provided the required mask or face covering for in-person instruction if the District transitions to the hybrid model after Columbus Day?



Parents are expected to provide their children with appropriate masks or face coverings to be worn at school and on the bus. Please refer to the District 2 Reopening Plan linked on Page 1 of this document.

21. 100 Percent Remote Parent Option

Parents had the option to keep their child in the 100 Percent Remote Model should the District transition to the Hybrid, In-person Model. In mid-October, another survey will be released asking parents once again about their election, if appropriate.

22. Parents, please keep in mind that when an assessment is given online, allow your child to respond on his/her own. Staff use the assessment information in order to design the best instruction based on each child's needs. If you help your child too much, the instruction will not be aligned to his/her needs.