



Bearden Middle School is committed to providing the safest and healthiest learning environment possible for our students and staff members. The following precautions will be implemented during the COVID-19 Pandemic:

Virtual Learning

Enrollment period for students for the virtual learning program will be open July 15-July 22. If you need assistance selecting this option through Aspen, contact the main office or [watch this 5 minute video tutorial on how to enroll](#). More information on the virtual program can be found at the district's website [here](#).

- The process for students who choose the virtual program:
 - The students who choose the virtual program will remain students of Bearden Middle School and taught by BMS teachers when possible.
 - 1) BMS will identify what courses are on the student's current schedule.
 - 2) Virtual classes offered by BMS will be determined by greatest need.
 - 3) If a virtual course is not offered by BMS, then we will recommend the student for the district-wide program (for that class only).
 - 4) If the district program cannot accommodate the student's need, then another course will be selected based upon availability. All of our courses will not be offered virtually at Bearden Middle School or through the district wide program. We will do our best to accommodate the most students we can in a virtual setting.
- Virtual teachers at BMS will be identified by administration and will be teaching the virtual class from the school building.
- The school day for virtual learning will be primarily from 8:30-3:30. The state requires students who opt into the virtual program to attend that for 6.5 hours a day.
- Students will be enrolled in the virtual learning program for the full semester. If a student comes back to BMS in January, then the student will need to continue with the coursework from the 1st semester since we are a year-long school with the exception of 6th grade World Language or Art/General Music at all grade levels.

Safety

- There are 3 primary codes of safety precautions (Green, Yellow, Red) which can be announced district-wide or as individual schools. If school was to start today, we would be in the yellow category. The category will remain the same until communicated otherwise by the district.
- All students and staff will have a temperature check before entering the school building. Temperature checks will be at the downstairs Francis Rd Entrance for bus riders, and the Middlebrook Entrance for Car Riders. Walkers can use the closest of those entrances to their home. All staff will be required to help perform temperature checks on a rotating basis. If a student or staff has a temperature of 100.4 or higher, then that person will be asked to leave the premises immediately. Students will wait in an isolated room until pickup. The school nurse will then do a self-check with the student.
- Staff will do a self-care check list daily before their morning duty begins.
- Visitors inside the school will be limited, required to wear a mask, and have temperatures checked. We will be offering a curbside option for student check out.
 - We request that parents drop off only essential items during the school day.
Outside food and drink items are considered non-essential and will not be permitted
- Social distancing is difficult to accomplish at BMS due to the number of students in our classrooms and the actual size of most of our rooms, six feet will most often not be possible.
 - We will make every attempt to spread students out in our classrooms, but in reality, we will not be able to meet social distance guidelines in our classrooms and hallways.
- Students and staff are required to wear masks or other form of acceptable face covering at all times. This policy will be enforced consistently and equitably.
- Classrooms and shared equipment will be disinfected and/or cleaned at regular intervals during the school day. Students may be asked to clean items after their use, similar to gym and fitness center sanitizing practices.
- No mass gatherings of students such as pep rallies, grade level meetings, or assemblies will be allowed. All athletics will follow TSSAA guidelines.

School Support Services

- Bearden Middle Administration/teachers and Virtual School Administration/teachers will continue to provide all supports services to our students and parents.
- **School Day**
- Lunch plans will depend greatly on the number of students who choose in-person instruction and will be made available as soon as possible. We will consider alternative locations for lunch so we can provide social distancing.
- Arrival Protocol for school day:
Doors to the Commons will open at 7:30am. Students will report grade level holding rooms until dismissal. Temp checks will be outside the entrance doors to the commons on both sides of the building. Students will be released to homeroom (1st period) at 8:00am for 6th grade, 8:05 for 7th grade and 8:10 for 8th grade. Teachers not on temperature duty for the day or on monitoring duty will supervise hallways until 8:30am. Students are expected to report immediately to 1st block and not congregate in hallways and lobbies. Classrooms will be designated for students eating breakfast at school.

We are excited about getting students back into our building. We understand that every parent needs to make a decision that best fits your family situation as this not only impacts your immediate household but, all those around you. If you are not comfortable with the learning environment at Bearden Middle School for in person learning, we encourage you to select the virtual option. This is especially important in regards to wearing of masks. If you do not want your child to wear a mask, virtual learning is for you. If you select in person learning for your child, you are committing them to wear a mask while at Bearden Middle School.

We will review and modify our expectations as necessary.

Thank you for all the support and encouragement during this unprecedented time. As I have said and continue to say, Bearden Middle is an incredible place because of you and your support! Our teachers and staff are working hard to make learning this year meaningful for our students. This document is by no means 'all inclusive.' We will continue to make adjustments now and after students have entered the building to maintain the safety and well-being of all. If you still have questions once you have reviewed these guidelines as well as the those sent by the district, please feel free to email me at michael.toth@knoxschools.org

All my best to you and yours, Go Bruins!

Mike