

Bearden Middle School
Frequently Asked Questions

This is not all inclusive and we will continue to review and adjust as information is updated.

1. Where can I find the link to fill out the form for virtual learning?

Use the following link to get more information on the process for signing up for virtual learning: [Virtual Learning Program Enrollment Now Open](#)

Call the main office if you need assistance with your Aspen account.

- 865-539-7839 or email jimmy.cannington@knoxschools.org

2. Can students do virtual learning and still participate in athletics and extra- curricular activities after 3:30pm?

Yes, students who enroll in the Virtual Learning Program will be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities (this is a district wide policy).

3. Can virtual students attend activities from 8:30-3:30 at Bearden Middle?

No. Students that choose virtual instruction are opting out of in person activities and coursework during the normal school day.

4. What courses are offered for virtual learning?

This will be based on the number of students enrolled and courses needed. We anticipate having an option for all honors classes. We are working with the district on options for AVID.

5. What will classes be like for virtual learning?

The expected school day schedule for students in 6th through 12th grade will be 8:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m., depending on the class schedule. Some of the classwork will be scheduled for regular meeting times through Microsoft Teams. These times will be scheduled to prevent students from having conflicts. Students will not be on the computer for the entire day. Teachers are planning instruction that blends online and independent practice and inquiry.

Art/Band/Chorus/PE staff across the district are working on what virtual instruction will look like in these classes.

6. Class Changes and Lunch:

- a. Class changes will be staggered as much as possible to limit student to student contact in the hall.
- b. Lunch students will social distance in the cafeteria. We will also make other spaces such as outside and in the classroom available to assist in social distancing. Students will eat in the cafeteria on a rotating basis (ex. Red day in the cafeteria, blue day in the classroom).

7. What will classes be like for in person learning?

In person learning will look traditional. Students will be in six classes daily and change classes at scheduled times. Students will experience a mixture of direct instruction, virtual collaboration, and independent work.

Preparing to go virtual:

Staff and Students must be prepared to go online in the event we have to stay at home. To prepare for that, students will be accessing CANVAS everyday in class and have practice sessions with microsoft Teams to build their ability to access and utilize these platforms.

8. If a teacher teaches a virtual class, will they also have in person classes?

All teachers may teach both virtual and in person classes based on need (student numbers) due to the content specific experience and expertise of teachers.

9. If my student starts August 17 virtually then wants to go to in-person school, is that possible?

Students who enroll in the Virtual Learning Program at the beginning of the school year will be expected to continue in the program until the semester break in December. There will be an option in December for students to either continue in the Virtual Learning Program or return to their assigned school in January. There will be exceptions made for students who are required to quarantine or other special circumstances. For quarantine or short-term absences, whenever possible, teachers will work with the students as they do with students who are absent for any other reasons. However, those students would be expected to return to face-to-face instruction once released from the quarantine

10. When will schedules be available to be viewed in Aspen?

All student schedules will be released on August 14, 2020.

11. Will the virtual instruction with Bearden continue with Red/Blue days?

Yes, red/blue days are for related arts and intervention classes.

The following classes meet every day: (all levels) English, Math, Science, Social Studies, English Language Learners

12. Will there be a 6th grade Orientation day?

August 13 8:30-12:00. Students will be required to wear a mask and temperature will be taken before entering the building. Students will enter through main entrances in circle drive. Information will be sent through email by the homeroom teacher. Buses will run as well. Students will go to assigned homeroom classes and will do a run-through of their schedule. We will not have a mass gathering of all 6th graders in the auditorium this year.

13. How many masks do we have? Will we receive more?

We have received a large shipment of cloth masks. We have received no communication that we will receive any more. We are currently accepting donations of new masks.

14. What happens if a student does not wear a mask?

The requirement is for all to wear a mask at all times except when eating or drinking. If a student refuses to wear a mask, staff will ask the student to put a mask on and will provide a mask if available. Students having difficulty wearing a mask will be socially distanced from mask wearing students. Parents will be notified when a student refuses to wear a mask.

15. Who will be quarantined if a teacher or student in class is exposed to COVID-19?

The school will be working directly with the Health Department and our district in these decisions. We will follow their direction. Students will be able to continue instruction virtually if they are quarantined.

16. Will I know if someone at Bearden has a confirmed case of COVID-19?

We will follow Knox County Health Department guidelines and notify families of students that may be impacted.

17. Will there be hand sanitizing stations throughout the school?

There will be stations in every classroom provided by the district. We will also have sanitizers in cafeteria, auditorium, and gym areas as well. Please know that nothing takes the place of hand washing. Continue to encourage your students to wash their hands multiple times throughout the day and before they come to school.

18. What kind of air quality does Bearden have with its HVAC units?

We change filters and inspect units 3-4 times a year. KCS staff has worked closely with TRANE and other energy management and/or HVAC contractors in recent years to ensure that our HVAC systems are working properly, and that they are “tuned” in such a manner as to provide the appropriate balance between energy efficiency and HVAC effectiveness. Our systems are balanced, on average, to exchange the indoor air with fresh outside air three times each hour, and they are never turned off. While we have occupied and unoccupied temperature set points, the systems must remain operative to ensure we maintain appropriate humidity levels to prevent the growth of mold, mildew, and other impurities.

The industry standard for HVAC in educational facilities is to replace the inside air with outside air at the rate of 10 cubic feet per minute per person. Our systems generally far exceed this standard.

19. Will my child still get a Chromebook to use if we attend school in-person?

Your child will be assigned a device prior to school that will be used during the school day. In the event that there is an extended school closing, Chromebooks will be sent home with students to use for instructional purposes.

20. When will Chromebooks be handed out?

Chromebooks will be distributed before August 17. Further details will be released as they are available. The required registration forms and optional insurance forms are available at <https://www.knoxschools.org/chromebooks>

21. Where does Bearden communicate information?

School messenger phone and email (please opt in to school messenger [here](#) if you’ve not done so). Teachers will email through Aspen.

All pertinent information is posted to the News and Announcements section of the website found [here](#).

22. Who is allowed in the school buildings?

Visitors must have an appointment, wear a mask, physically distance and pass a temperature check. Families will not be allowed to escort their child inside the building during school drop off or pick up.

23. What can I do to help as a parent?

Please ask students in the morning before coming to school if they have washed their hands and have a mask with them. We would also like you to take student temperatures at home and do not send your student to school if the temperature is 100.4 or higher.

24. How can we financially help Bearden Middle school to prepare for this year?

Support the [Bearden Middle PTA](#) and [Bearden Middle School Foundation](#). They will help us through funding educational technology tools used by all students and staff as well as supplementing any Personal Protective Equipment as needed.

25. How can we support the staff at Bearden Middle School?

Be patient with us as we all are making decisions and working to start school in a difficult time. Be supportive and positive on social media outlets, communications with staff, and interactions with our community. Work with your child(ren) to get them used to wearing a mask for long periods of time. We work extremely hard to provide the best educational environment for all of our children. If you have a question, email michael.toth@knoxschools.org.

26. A student at another Knox County School has some different expectations. Why?

Every school building and student population is unique. Knox County Schools recognized this and allowed individual schools to determine how best to follow health and safety guidelines with the resources of our school. We are committed to creating safe and healthy learning spaces and slowing down the spreading of germs and the transmission of disease.