

July 14, 2020

Dear Buckeye Valley Families,

I hope you are relaxed and rejuvenated, while enjoying a safe and healthy summer break. Thank you for your patience as we have been planning for what the Buckeye Valley Local Schools "Return to School" might look like for the 2020-2021 school year.

I want to assure everyone that the health and safety of students, staff and families remain a top priority as we plan the year ahead. Based on available information from Ohio's governor as of July 2, 2020, school districts in Ohio were directed to create individual learning models formed by guidance and regulations provided by the Center for Disease Control, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Ohio Department of Health and the Delaware General Health District.

Buckeye Valley has made plans with the following guiding principles:

- Public Health and government leaders make health decisions
 - Alignment with Delaware General Health District, ODE, ODH, and with local Delaware County School Districts where applicable.
- COVID-19 safety concerns take priority over educational programming.
 - Cannot eliminate risks, can only reduce risks
 - Reducing risk will help keep schools in session and maximize student learning.
- Learning for all students
 - BV teacher-directed learning for In-Person option
 - Providing 1-to-1 Chromebook to 6-12 students (a consistent device will be provided to K-5 students).
 - Social Emotional Well-being Commitment
- Mindful of finances and resources
 - Budget considerations in planning
 - Maintaining healthy financial outlook for the future
 - Collaboration with employee groups & key stakeholders

Also, we would like to thank everyone who completed our surveys earlier this summer. They played a big role in our planning for the upcoming year.

We are proposing shifting the first day of school to begin Monday, August 31, 2020 for all Buckeye Valley students rather than Wednesday, August 19, 2020. This change allows for our teachers and staff to adjust to the increased safety measures and also practice their implementation. Beginning August 25th, the intent is to “phase-in” our students return to school by having 50% of the students return at a time. This will allow our students to adjust to the new routines and safety protocols within smaller groups. More information about the later start date and the phase-in will come in a separate email.

The *BV Return To School Plan* will offer two options for students/families. One option will be fully online. This option will be separate from the daily classroom teaching and will follow a prescribed digital curriculum. It will meet Ohio Department of Education Standards and Graduation Requirements. Staffing is dependent on the number of students who choose this option. The second option (*Barons Are Back*) will be in-person - to the extent allowed based upon the COVID-19 Risk Level announced by the Ohio Department of Health for each county. The attached presentation provides a detailed look at each option and explains how it will be decided if students are fully Returned to School, if the Hybrid model is enacted (50% In-School), or if Remote Learning is issued for all students enrolled in the Barons Are Back Option.

Thank you for your patience and grace as we come back together and demonstrate our Baron Pride and Determination.

Proud to serve as your Superintendent, Andrew Miller