

BAMS Distance Classroom Model

This model is designed for families who would like to maintain their enrollment at BAMS, but don't yet feel comfortable sending their student(s) back to school in August. **Students will attend school remotely, following the standard school schedule and bell times.**

Based on feedback after our distance learning experience during Quarter 4, this learning model will incorporate many of the features that parents and students valued, such as regular virtual real-time interaction with teachers each day for every class. Parents can rely on teachers to facilitate and guide student learning.

Students will have scheduled times, synchronous class meetings, and digital resources and assignments that can be completed at home. This learning model provides families the flexibility to choose an instructional model to meet their needs during these uncertain times, and reflects our commitment to providing a high-quality instructional experience, no matter what the setting.

What to expect from BAMS Distance Classroom Model

- Students are at home learning and will need access to a device and internet
- Instruction is provided remotely and students will have access to their teachers during the regular school day/period hours
- Students can expect daily face to face connections for every period
- Attendance will be taken daily in each course
- Students not in attendance, on screen, at the beginning of the period, will be marked absent and not allowed late entry
- Students must be **signed in, seated at a table or desk**, and remain for the length of the period **in uniform**
- Technical and/or internet issues, unless large scale outages, will not count as excused
- Students must follow all online classroom etiquette and rules, as set by each teacher, to be allowed into class, and to remain in class



Additional Supports for Students and Families

- Tips and strategies to support students learning off campus
- Support from case managers and academic intervention teachers to meet student needs during regular school hours

While many courses will be available through BAMS Distance Classroom model, some courses will only be offered through the Traditional option.

FAQs

Once I choose an option, can I change my mind later?

A continuous and consistent learning environment is best for student success. However, we understand that parents and students might have compelling reasons to seek a transition from one option to another, so we will provide opportunities to do so when available. For the sake of continuity, transfers from one learning option to another should occur after the completion of a nine weeks grading period.

Will each option offer the same classes?

Core classes will be available under both options. The BAMS Distance classroom option will have a selection of electives. These may differ from courses available in the Traditional model.

Will the Traditional and Distance classroom move at the same pace and use the same curriculum?

Yes. Since teachers will be meeting daily with students, for the same amount of time. However, there will not be a mix of students on screen and in traditional classroom.

Is the BAMS Distance classroom option identical to the distance learning we experienced during the final months of the school year?

No. The BAMS Distance classroom option will incorporate standard bell schedules and students will have live instruction and class times. Students will follow the bell schedule below daily and expected to be signed in and ready at start times:

1st Period: 8am-8:50am

2nd Period: 9am-9:50am

3rd Period: 9:55am-10:45am

Lunch Break

4th Period: 11:20am-12:10pm

5th Period: 12:15pm- 1:05pm

6th Period: 1:10pm- 2:00pm

7th Period: 2:05pm- 2:55pm

Teachers will meet in real time with students during these periods, just as if they were in the traditional classroom. Activities for movement and engagement will be included to ensure students are not sitting for too long, just like in the traditional setting.

If I choose the BAMS Distance classroom option will I need to have my own computer or laptop?

A device, with camera, and an internet connection will be necessary. When you select your option you can indicate whether you have a device and whether you have access to the internet. As we did during Distance Learning for the last months of school, BAMS will provide devices, however internet access will be the responsibility of the family.

Under BAMS Distance classroom option, will students be interacting with their teachers and classmates via Zoom? Is Zoom safe and secure?

Our school relies on both Zoom and Google Meets. Teachers and students will be expected to be familiar with all safety and security features, and to use them.

How will students take assessments in the BAMS Distance classroom option?

Teachers will monitor students in real time on the computer screen. Each teacher will have different ways of assessing and of ensuring the student is not receiving help and is answering in real time.

Has the start date for the 2020-2021 school year changed?

No. We fully expect to start the school year on August 10.

Will students wear masks in classrooms?

Students will be required to wear a face mask or cloth face covering when not able to social distance. Masks must be solid in color unless wearing the school uniform face mask.

Will students be expected to socially distance?

Students will be socially distanced to the extent possible.

Will parents and volunteers be allowed on campus?

For Semester 1 parents, volunteers, and visitors will not be present on campus. That will be revisited for Semester 2.

What steps will be taken to ensure that surfaces are clean in classrooms.

Maintenance workers and school custodians will clean frequently touched surfaces throughout the day and conduct overall cleanings at the conclusion of every day. Other non-custodial staff members will be expected to do their part keeping surfaces clean, and will be provided spray bottles and microfiber cloths for additional cleaning. Teachers will have access to cleaning supplies for their classroom.

What other steps are being taken to ensure a healthy environment?

BAMS will partner with parents in educating students on the importance of hand washing, hygiene, and social distancing. Hand sanitizer will be made available in classrooms and workplaces. The schedule for changing air conditioning filters has been accelerated.

What will BAMS do if a classmate or staff member is infected with COVID-19?

We will send a clear message to parents and staff that if they are exhibiting any symptoms, they should not come to school or report to work. If a student exhibits symptoms at school they will be taken to a location at the school clinic set aside for possible COVID-19 cases and their parent or guardian will be notified to take them home or to visit a medical professional.

What if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?

The Polk County Health Department will notify the school if a student or staff member tests positive. We will notify parents, while not specifically identifying the student or staff member. We will cooperate with the Health Department as they conduct the appropriate notifications of individuals who have been in contact with the person infected. Our ReOpening plan is designed to limit the chances of infection and to limit the disruption to a school or workplace in the event of an infection.

How will Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings take place in the Fall?

BAMS is committed to providing families an opportunity to have meaningful participation in the special education process. Whether in-person or an alternative format, such as videoconferencing or by phone, IEP teams will partner with families to determine the most practical format to conduct IEP meetings.

Will students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) or 504 Plans receive accommodations in BAMS Distance classroom?

All students attending BAMS Distance classroom will have access to many accommodations that naturally occur in the online educational setting. In addition, BAMS may be able to provide additional accommodations per a student's IEP or Section 504 Plan if the accommodation(s) is/are applicable to the online educational environment. Please note that some accommodations may not be possible to implement in the online educational setting.

The primary responsibility for determining the best option for school setting will always reside with the parents/guardians. Each family has a comfort level for the degree of safety precautions for their student. In no case do we dictate to families the model of learning a student must take in order to obtain an education. Please remember BAMS has opted for two models and those are only BAMS options for your child to receive an education. The state and district offer different options through Polk Virtual, Florida Virtual, as well as other school choice options which includes a student's zone school.

Updated: 7/6/2020