

Traditional Model

This model represents a return to the school campus and the classroom where students will interact directly with their teacher(s) and classmates. The school day will follow the standard bell schedule that includes all the core classes and other subject areas. In short, it represents a return to the traditional school environment – with several significant changes involving enhanced health and safety precautions.

Our goal is to create an environment that provides an opportunity for students to return to the traditional school experience, while providing effective safeguards to protect the health and safety of students and staff.

Public Health Actions on Campus

- Practice safe social distancing to the greatest extent possible
- No visitors, large group gatherings, or in person field trips will be scheduled
- Orientation and Open Houses will be held virtually.
- Post signage and provide lessons to strongly encourage frequent hand washing and hygiene practices
- Ensure hand sanitizer is available throughout the campus
- Increase cleaning protocols throughout campus, including replacing air filters more frequently. Cleaning and Disinfection, using EPA approved products, frequently touched surfaces within the school as much as possible. Limit the use of shared objects and clean between classes as possible.
- Limit group gatherings
- 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.
- Expect symptom screening for all staff and students
- Ensure any staff or students who exhibit symptoms are not at school or in the workplace
- Students will be scheduled into clusters to reduce exposure
- Clear acrylic partitions in needed areas



School Bus Safety

While we encourage families that can to transport their students. However, school bus transportation is available through our contract with Berkley Charter Elementary School. Their bus safety plan indicates:

- Bus drivers practice all safety actions and protocols as indicated for other staff.
- Expect students wear face coverings on the bus. Students without face coverings at the morning pick up will be picked up, but they will not be allowed to return home on the bus without a face covering.
- Clean high touch areas between runs
- Disinfect each bus thoroughly at the end of each day

Student Meals

- Students will eat meals outside or in the classroom instead of the cafeteria.
- The school will use disposable food service items

We will have a customized plan to discourage large gatherings of students in hallways and common areas, using clear communication and signage to reinforce the message. The number of students allowed in the cafeteria and gymnasium will be significantly reduced.

Students who choose the Traditional model and cannot participate due to COVID-19 illness or quarantine, will be moved to the BAMS Distance Classroom model until their quarantine period is completed.

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?

We are waiting for further details to announce the calendar for the year.

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