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Christan Schrader
Director

To: Parents/Guardians of Center, Phoenix, and DHH Program Students

From: Christan Schrader, Director

Date: July 15, 2020

Re: 2020-21 School Year

Black Hawk Area Special Education District (BHASED) and all its member school districts are actively planning for students to return to instruction in person in August, as well as providing a remote learning option. Our member school districts will have different options for the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, and BHASED will also have a plan for the Black Hawk Area Education Center (BHAEC), the Phoenix Program, and the BHASED DHH Program. BHASED's plan will be available later this month.

As we develop our plans, we would appreciate your input. I will be hosting a virtual Town Hall meeting on Monday July 20th at 6 p.m. Please use the following link to join the Zoom meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89442882785?pwd=cDNyTVo5aVJtTldGS1RsUDN6dXp2Zz09>

In an effort to develop the most comprehensive plan we need each family to complete a short survey for each student in your household who attends a BHASED program. This survey will ask you to indicate your choice of either in-person instruction or a remote learning option.

We are asking families to commit to their decision for the first quarter of the school year (August 19 – October 17). It is vitally important that families complete this survey by Friday, July 17th so that we can continue to finalize learning plans and share them with you. Please follow the link to take the survey:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/bhased2>

Prior to making your decision we want to make certain you are aware of mandatory changes in daily practices that are required by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH).

Below are some of the ISBE and IDPH requirements:

- Students will be required to wear masks on buses and in school buildings at all times.
- Students will not be required to wear masks when students are eating or are outside, as long as social distancing can be maintained.
- A doctor's exemption letter will be required if a student cannot wear a face mask for medical reasons.
- Students with medical documentation may be excluded from the use of face masks, but they will be asked to use other forms of COVID mitigation (i.e. facial protectors, social distancing).
- Refusal to wear a mask, without medical documentation, can lead the student to be placed in The Remote Learning Program.
- Families will be required to certify their student(s) do not have any symptoms of COVID-19, have not been exposed to COVID-19 daily.
- Student temperatures will be taken daily upon entering the building and/or classroom.
- If a student has a temperature of 100.4 or greater, they will be removed from the classroom into a health quarantine room. A school nurse or designee shall remain with the student until they can be picked up from school by a parent or authorized person.

- Social distancing will be practiced as best as possible, given the needs of students and physical space limitations.
- Desks will be separated and students will allow distance between them as they move through the building as best as possible.
- Students will remain in their classrooms as much as possible, limiting their movement in the building.
- Lunches will be provided at school. Lunch procedure will vary at each program location.

Remote Learning Option:

- Students will receive academic requirements to complete at home.
- There will be support for those students from staff during hours when staff are not scheduled to work with students in person.
- This will be more structured and rigorous than the remote learning you experienced last spring and much of the learning should be expected to occur with video instruction and family support.
- We are asking that all students opting for remote learning remain in remote learning during the first quarter of the school year (October 17).

In-Person Learning Option:

Details are still being finalized. They will likely include:

- A five (5)-hour instructional day (8:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.) to start the year and continue until further notice.
- Four (4) days of in-person instruction and one (1) day of remote instruction.

Please understand that this situation, the guidance, and mandates given to local school districts continue to change almost daily.

Do not hesitate to contact Christan Schrader with any other questions at BHASED (309) 796-2500 or email: cschrader@bhased.org.