



# Bristol Tennessee City Schools

615 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd ♦ Bristol, TN 37620 ♦ (423) 652-9451 ♦ Fax (423) 652-9238

## COVID-19 COMMUNICATION

August 5, 2020

Dear BTCS Parents and Guardians:

I am excited to welcome you back to school for the 2020-21 school year! As we have welcomed staff back into our schools this past week, I have been reminded once again of how thrilled I will be when we can safely welcome all students back to our buildings. Until then, we will continue to navigate this COVID-19 pandemic together to the very best of our abilities.

### Back-to-School Information

Teachers and school staff have been working diligently to prepare for both remote and in-person instruction. Our staff members are excited to welcome students for orientations and to pick up materials beginning this week! It has been a very long time since we have seen their faces, and we have missed them greatly!

Tomorrow is the first day of school, and all students will connect remotely. Additionally, schools have scheduled times for **all** students, both those who have selected the remote and in-person learning pathways, to connect with teachers in person. Please refer to the specific communication from your child's school about how to connect tomorrow and the schedule for in-person orientation and materials pick-up.

In addition to typical back-to-school information, all students will become familiar with remote learning expectations during orientation. If we are able to return to in-person learning, it is probable that even students who select in-person learning will need to utilize the remote learning option from time-to-time for absences or even quarantine situations. Therefore, it is important that all students participate in the orientations as scheduled. If remote learners do not attend orientation in person, they will be required to complete an online orientation. If you have questions about your child's back-to-school schedule, please contact your child's school.

### Instructional Plan for August 17-21

Based on the guidance released last week by the governor, the Tennessee Department of Education, and the Tennessee Department of Health, we are working on a plan to offer in-person instruction, particularly when we are experiencing substantial spread of the virus in our county. Until we receive approval for our plan, we will continue to follow the guidance in the Framework for Opening the 2020-21 School Year: Sullivan County Plan. Currently, we have substantial community spread of the virus in Sullivan County, which keeps us in the Red threshold. Therefore, **remote learning will continue for all students through Friday, August 21.**

Thank you for all you are doing to advocate for the best learning opportunities for your child(ren) and to prepare for what "school" will look like for them this year. If you have questions about your child's back-to-school plan, I encourage you to reach out to your school. The uncertainty of this time is frustrating and challenging for everyone, and my heart is with our students, educators, and parents as we continue down this road together. #WeAreBTCS

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Annette Tudor".

Annette Tudor, Ed.D.  
Director of Schools