



Bristol Tennessee City Schools

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COVID-19 COMMUNICATION

June 25, 2020

Dear BTCS Parents and Guardians,

I hope you and your children are enjoying a restful summer. You certainly earned this summer break based on the support you provided to your children the last few months of the school year! Thank you for your partnership with us during such challenging times. As we move forward with planning for reopening our schools this fall, I want to keep you informed and ask that you collaborate with us over the next several weeks.

Thank you to those of you who participated in our recent Parent Survey for the Reopening of Schools. Your input is a valuable resource as we continue to develop our reopening plan. You can find a summary of the survey results attached with this letter. I am sharing a few key initial decisions and guiding principles that are informing our back-to-school planning process. Bristol Tennessee City Schools is committed to two primary goals: 1. protecting the health and safety of students and staff; and 2. providing a high-quality education for all students in our district.

Our recent survey shows that at this time the majority of Bristol families want their children to return to our campuses this fall for in-person learning. As long as current guidance allows, our **school buildings will open on August 3** with additional safety protocols in place to protect the health and safety of our students and staff as much as possible. To honor the individual needs and circumstances of some students and families, **we will also offer a full-time, online learning option**. Based on requirements passed by the State Board of Education this week, online learning will be refined from what families experienced during last year’s school closures. For example, assignments will be graded, and attendance will be monitored.

During the week of July 6, families will receive a survey to select their intention for attending school in person or participating in the online option. We are continuing to collaborate with Kingsport City Schools and Sullivan County Schools, with guidance from the Sullivan County Health Department, to develop the framework for reopening our schools. Prior to asking you to make your decision, we will share this framework document and requirements for online learning with you so you have as much information as possible to make an informed decision.

Communication Timeline for Back-to-School Planning

Week of July 6	Parent Update & Instruction Selection Survey
July 20	Parent Update
July 27	Parent Update
August 3	Welcome Back to School

We greatly appreciate your partnership and will do our very best to provide a safe environment for students, while giving each one the greatest opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive during this unprecedented and uncertain time. The challenges are many, but I could not ask for a better team of staff, parents, school board, and community members to ensure our students get the very best education we can provide regardless of the circumstances. #WeAreBTCS

Sincerely,

Annette Tudor, Ed.D.
Interim Director of Schools