



We're Open for Business!!!

2020-2021 Reopening Plan

BRCS has continued to work around the clock in order to prepare for our students to come back to school and get back to learning in the safest, most engaging environment possible. Our motto for the 20-21 school year will be "Make the Most of Today." Starting last March, our country found itself navigating the challenging course set upon us by the Covid-19 pandemic. We have seen our schools and businesses shut down, and many have been fearful of what the future holds. Here at Brazos River Charter School, we want to learn from the past, look forward to the future, and most importantly - engage ourselves in the activities of TODAY, by being positive agents of whatever change comes our way. Please join us in rising to the challenge of encouraging rather than discouraging – building rather than destroying; Join us at BRCS, as we make the most of today, so that we can be better tomorrow.

BRCS has already taken many steps forward in building the capacity for our mission thus far. BRCS's actions towards the success of our mission include:

1) Concerted effort by staff to create a plan that allows for the success of every student, including the assessment of any lost learning in the spring of 2020 and adjusted curriculum to address those losses.

2) The acquisition of a quality learning platform that maintains the necessary rigor for student learning and growth if remote learning becomes necessary at any point during the school year

3) The addition of new technology to better meet our students' needs,



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A Message from Brazos River Charter School

Brazos River Charter School is committed to the safe reopening of facilities and learning for the 2020-2021 school year. **To be clear, our goal is to offer face-to-face instruction beginning on August 12, 2020.** We have, however, prepared other contingencies should we experience attendance fluctuations and/or a resurgence of COVID-19 during the 2020-2021 school year. Last spring, in response to the unprecedented worldwide pandemic caused by COVID-19, teachers across the state of Texas had to very quickly change the way students were taught. BRCS staff provided parents with at-home remote learning resources, to include daily learning activities tailored to the needs of individual students. BRCS staff is now preparing to offer Remote Instruction to any BRCS family should it be desired, and/or necessary.

There is not a "one-size-fits-all" approach to reopening schools across the state of Texas. Based on available information as of July 7, 2020, school districts in Texas will create their own local contingency plans for reopening schools based on general guidance from the Governor's Strike Force to Reopen Texas, the Texas Education Agency, and the Johnson County Health Officials.

Our plans are subject to change as public health guidelines are updated and feedback from stakeholders is collected. There will be situations that may require temporary suspension of face-to-face instruction due to positive COVID-19 cases in schools. Schools must close off areas that are heavily used by the individual with a lab-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 3 days have already passed since that person was on campus. Parents, staff and students will be prepared for this if it occurs, while actively working to prevent it through prevention and mitigation practices.



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Guidance from the Texas Education Agency (TEA)

Commissioner Mike Morath of the Texas Education Agency has provided school districts with guidance in the following areas:

Attendance and Enrollment

- Per Texas Education Code (TEC), §25.092, students must attend 90% of the days a course is offered in order to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade. This requirement remains in force during the 2020-21 school year. Given the public health situation, student attendance may be earned through the delivery of virtual instruction if the need arises.
- Any BRCS parent may request that their student be offered virtual instruction from any school system that offers such instruction. **If a parent who chooses virtual instruction wants their child to switch to an on-campus instructional setting, they can do so, but school systems are permitted to limit these transitions to occur only at the end of a grading period, if it will be beneficial to the student's instructional quality. Students who are enrolled solely in remote instruction MUST be logged-in and ACTIVE for at least 4 HOURS per school day. If students do not follow this attendance requirement, they will be counted absent.**
- BRCS will provide daily on-campus attendance for students otherwise entitled to attend school who follow this document's required public health procedures and whose parents wish them to attend on campus each day, subject to school closure and the exceptions listed in this document.



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General Health & Safety Protocols

- Campus staff will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols. (Students and staff will wear masks and/or face shields.)
- On the first day a student attends school on campus, school systems must provide instruction to students on appropriate hygiene practices and other mitigation practices adopted in the local school system.
- Disinfectants will be used for deep cleaning campuses.
- Students, teachers, staff and essential campus visitors/volunteers will be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash hands frequently.
- Social distancing and safety signage will be added and visible throughout school facilities.
- Only the main school entrance (front office area) will be accessible after arrival times and remain that way throughout the day to help ensure effective management and safe screening of visitors.
- BRCS is permitted to prevent any individual who fails the health screening criteria from being admitted to the campus until they meet any of the criteria for re-entry to the campus.
 - Non-essential visitors will be limited, and it is highly suggested that anyone wishing to visit is cleared prior to coming into the building. They are also to subject themselves to all health-screening measures.
 - Examples of Normal Essential Visitors Include
 - Outside support personnel
 - Individuals for ARD Meetings (will receive a specific invitation)





Health Pre-Screening for Staff & Students

- Students and staff are expected to take their own temperatures daily before arriving at school. Anyone with a fever of 100.4 or higher should not come to school.
- Students and staff should also prescreen themselves for any of the following symptoms prior to coming to school:
 - * Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit
 - * **New**, uncontrolled cough that causes different breathing (or for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in the cough from baseline)
 - * Sore throat
 - * Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain; or **new** onset of headache, especially with fever
- Students and staff may be subject to periodic temperature checks for verification, especially if they are feeling ill or suspected of having a fever during the school day.
- Campuses will have access to a touch-free forehead thermometer to check/verify temperatures throughout the day. Anyone with a 100.4 or higher temperature will need to leave school.
- Staff will be required to notify their immediate supervisor if they have tested positive for COVID-19 or are presenting COVID-19 symptoms.

Arriving at School

- Students arriving at school are encouraged to social distance and spread out in larger common spaces (pre-designated by the campus) and during transitions to and from class.
- BRCS will plan for entry, exit, and transition procedures that reduce large group gatherings of students and/or adults.
- Students and staff will be instructed to use hand sanitizer immediately upon entering the building, and wash hands frequently, especially before and after using the restroom facilities.

School Health Procedures



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- The attendance clerk will be trained to ask questions to screen students/staff who are absent for COVID- 19 symptoms as well as essential campus visitors.
- Students who come to the office showing symptoms will be required to put on a face covering/mask until their parent arrives to take them home.
- The school office area will be cleaned and disinfected regularly.

Protocols for Individuals with COVID-19

In the case of an individual who was **diagnosed with COVID-19**, the individual may return to school/work when **all three** of the following criteria are met:

- 1) at least one day (24 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications).
- 2) the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath); and
- 3) at least 10 calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared, or if asymptomatic, at least 10 calendar days since testing positive for COVID-19.

In the case of **an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19**, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus/work until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.

If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay-at-home period, the individual must either **a)** receive two separate confirmations (negative test results) at least 24 hours apart that they are free of COVID-19 via acute infection tests at an approved COVID-19 testing location found at <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/> or **b)** bring doctor's note indicating an alternative diagnosis.



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Individuals - including students, teachers, staff or other campus visitors/volunteers - who have had close contact with someone who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, and is presenting with COVID-19 symptoms, should stay at home until seen by a physician or tested. Closure contact is defined as being within 6 ft of an infected person for a duration of at least 15 minutes.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) & Masks

- BRCS staff and students will wear PPE, to include face coverings, masks or shields as needed.
- The Texas Education Agency recently announced that PPE would be purchased and provided to each district for use as needed.

Handwashing & Hand Sanitizers

- Students and staff will be trained in proper hand washing protocols to prevent COVID-19 and the spread of germs.
- Handwashing stations are available in restrooms and sanitizer will be readily available in all classrooms.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be added in commons areas.

Social Distancing Protocols

- Students and staff will be trained in proper social distancing.
 - Signage will be provided to help assist students and staff with social distancing in common spaces and hallways.
 - Social Distance becomes a personal responsibility of each individual attending school or coming to the campus.
 - Whenever possible throughout the day, students and staff will remain six feet apart.
- NOTE: It isn't realistic that staff and students always maintain six-feet social distancing , especially in classrooms.

Cleaning & Disinfectant Protocols



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- BRCS students and staff will be trained on COVID-19 safety protocols.
- Cleaning and disinfecting will occur each day after school in every classroom, commons area and on high-touch surfaces.
- Every classroom and office area will have disinfectant in a spray bottle provided for employees and students to use in high-touch areas throughout the school day.
- The state recommends that each school district provide students the opportunity to clean their own spaces before and after they are used in ways that are safe and developmentally appropriate.
- Restrooms will undergo extensive cleaning after each day's use.

Instructional Delivery Options

Both in-person and remote learning options must address the required curriculum per the Texas Education Code 28.002.

Student grading policies under **both models** must be consistent with the grading policies used before COVID-19 for on-campus assignments.

Face to Face Instruction

- BRCS intends to begin face-to-face instruction on the first day of school for students, August 12, 2020.
- Instruction is traditional at-school learning with the option of remote learning.
- The safety protocols and social distancing listed above will be implemented as recommended for at- school learning.
- BRCS will consider the Texas Education Agency (TEA), Somervell County Health officials' guidelines for face-to-face Instruction. NOTE: TEA could change guidelines at any point in time based upon CDC guidelines.

BRCS Remote Instruction



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- BRCS's asynchronous learning plan (remote instruction) involves aligned rigorous curriculum online using a combination of the Edgenuity Learning Platform, daily teacher interaction and student determined self-paced instruction. Student engagement will be equivalent to direct content work that a student would be engaged in if the student were at school. Systems will be in place to measure academic progress. Grading policies will be consistent with face to face locally adopted school grading policies. This option will be offered as a parent choice or if temporary school closure is necessary.
- BRCS parents have the choice to select remote instruction.

Attendance and Enrollment

- BRCS will be required to take DAILY attendance under both learning models. This means students will have to be present face-to-face and/or meet a daily trackable student engagement plan.
- Per Texas Education Code (TEC) 25.092, students must attend 90 percent of a course in order to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade. This requirement remains in force during the 2020-2021 school year.
- School systems are required to provide parents a notice of their public education enrollment and attendance rights and responsibilities during the COVID-19 pandemic using a document published by TEA.

*** Students who choose to work solely from home MUST be logged in and ACTIVE in order to be counted present.**



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Special Education

- Special education staff will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols.
- Instruction - Students who receive mainstream instruction, in class support, or co-teach instruction will continue to participate in the general education curriculum with their individualized accommodations/modifications being implemented by the special education teacher. Students receiving resource instruction will receive tasks and support that are explicitly designed to meet their IEP goals. This will occur in the appropriate setting as designated by their IEP. These settings will be sanitized consistently between groups.
- Student devices will be sent home with students should school closure become a necessity.
- All staff, including special education staff will receive training on remote methods of service delivery.

Special Education Remote Learning

IEP/ARD meetings will be held to determine appropriate related service instruction delivery for remote learning students.

For students who choose remote instruction, students will be allowed to come to school for related services. Related services will not be provided in the student's home.

- All IEP goals can be addressed through remote learning.
- *ARD meetings may continue to be held via virtual platforms as an option to encourage parent participation and social distancing.

Technology Support



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- All students will have access to a district-issued personal device for face-to-face and

remote learning. Certain district policies and procedures will be required with the use of these devices. Detailed policies and procedures regarding the use of technology are located in the "Technology Use Agreement" in enrollment packets. The user agreements are signed by parents and students upon enrollment and kept in the cumulative student files.

- Teachers are provided at-home devices as needed for remote collaborations.

Social-Emotional Support/Mental Wellness

- Campus counselor will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols.
- Campus counselor will wear a mask when meeting face-to-face with students.
- Campus counselor will continue to utilize a referral system for individuals who need targeted support.

Communication

- BRCS will continue to inform key stakeholders regularly, while offering opportunities for feedback to help shape the continued development of daily operations to best serve its students, families, and staff members.



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