

Bear Creek Community Charter School



School Reopening Health & Safety Plan

September 2020

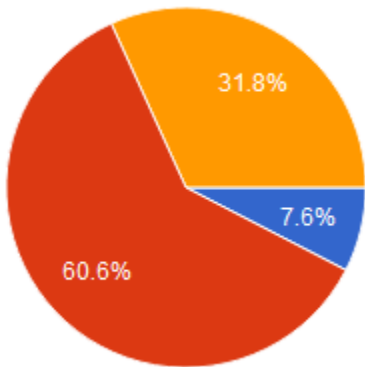
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Family Survey

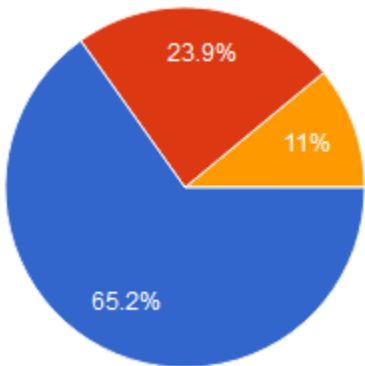
Bear Creek Community Charter School provided an online survey for parents to complete regarding their perceptions and intentions related to COVID-19. The results of the survey are as follows:

Of the 264 families who responded:

- 75.4% feel it is safe to return to school.
- 60.6% of parents prefer in-person instruction for their child – students attending school with the appropriate health and safety precautions in place.
- 65.2% prefer students attend school on set days each week and complete school work from home on the alternating days.
- 99.6% of the families have internet access at home.
- 57.8% would utilize transportation offered by their public school district, while the remaining 42.2% would provide their own transportation to and from school.
- 72.9% stated if students were given the option to wear masks/face coverings while in school, their child would wear on.
- 84.7% would participate in Google Classroom training if it were offered.
- 51.1% would eat a grab and go breakfast and/or lunch provided by school, while 48.39% stated they would send their child to school with meals.



- Remote/distance learning - students working from home using computers provided by the school.
- In-person instruction - students attending school with the appropriate health and safety precautions in place.
- A blend/mix of in-person instruction and remote/distance learning.



- Students attend school on set days each week (example Monday, Wednesday and Friday) and work from home on alternating days (Tuesday and Thursday).
- Students attend school for half a day, five days a week.
- Students attend school all-day for one week, then work from home during the second week. One week on, one week off.

Parent Comments:

I am a single parent and I struggle while working and trying to help children with online school because my children are young or need additional assistance. If teachers could meet to do online instruction daily at specific times, and parents have ample time to train the children how to get online to meetings, it would be more beneficial.

I'm concerned for students wearing masks all day. I don't believe it's healthy for them to breath in CO2.

I think they should start out in school. If things change then implement other options.

I don't really feel safe returning back to work/school at this time really. Would prefer remote learning and i home school/supplement when needed. I don't like the idea of any of the none traditional day options because I have no idea what I would do about child care and I'm not sure I'm comfortable leaving Emmy alone at home. We might be living in bear creek by then which will make it a little better if we have to do that, but if I'm still in Exeter I don't like being 30 minutes away from her if she's alone. Also, upgrading our HVAC system would probably be a good move on many many levels. I do not like the idea of my children or myself needing to wear a mask all day long. Not sure what our internet will be like in Bear Creek Village

Thank you for making the transition to online learning a seamless one back in March! I trust you will do what's best for everyone.

Google classroom does not work for a special needs child. Please take into consideration parents who work full time.

Both my husband and I work so having school remotely at home does not work for us. This would be very hard to accommodate. If hours had to be switched, like say 1/2 days, it would be better if both children go at the same time, then we can figure out our work schedules. I understand that you can only do so much with the CDC guidelines but please keep us working parents in mind. Also, I selected no for masks because my son will not keep his on. He will be pulling it down, taking it off and throwing it. I know because he's done this when he had to wear it in the store even though he knows that he must keep it on. My daughter is ok but not for long periods of time, the loops hurt her ears. Plus I think you should be able to see the kids' mouths. Also, if you teachers must wears masks, maybe see if you can get clear one so that the students can see their mouths as well. I know this is a learning experience for all and I know everything is done to protect everyone so I completely understand we are all in this together.

My children are currently signed up to use the bus to and from school. However, if I am still off due to COVID at the start of the year I will take them to and from school.

Thank you for continuing to keep parents informed on everything going on as well.

Thank you for always looking out for your school families!

I believe children should learn from educators, in person. I am not scared by any means to have my child in his school learning on a daily basis. We can be as safe as we can while still living our normal life and not having our children deprived of their education. I run a business and work 60-70 hours a week, my child should be in school learning. All children should be.

Just to have a set schedule being a single working parent. Knowing when and for how long i need to have child care lined up.

If social distancing is done, I don't feel masks would be necessary. In situations where social distancing cannot occur, I would allow my child to wear a mask.

I answered that I would not participate in a Google classroom training because I am a teacher who uses Google classroom, so I am very familiar with it.

Overall, I have always felt that Bear Creek looks out for the best interest of their students, and I feel this situation will be no different.

Last year the zoom schedules were difficult in the beginning. However, towards the end of school everyone knew their role and it worked much better and more efficient.

I am unable to answer whether it is safe for my girls to return to school. I believe that is completely contingent on measures taken and compliance to the measures by other students and staff. Additionally, with respect to school lunches I believe my girls would opt for a combination of school purchased meals and meals from home.

COVID is over-rated. The percentage of those contracting it is very tiny. I would sign a waiver as well for my child to attend part time or full time.

I think that students should all wear masks with the exceptions that the CDC has implemented- really in person instruction is needed but I think that is the number one safeguard to do it safely for students, staff and families. I am a teacher and had to use Google Classroom for my students so that is the only reason why I wouldn't attend the training - parents NEED to familiarize themselves with it. Thank you for keeping us updated and for all that you do.

Please take a stand and do all you can to reopen the school with as little disruption to the learning and socialization process as possible. I truly believe that an unintended consequence of the shutdowns has been an arrested development of socialization among our children. Whether we realize it or not, telling our children that everyone is a possible threat is a dangerous thing and can potentially have negative outcomes if this continues as the "new normal" in society. No human, let alone a child, should automatically view their fellow man as a threat. This will breed paranoia and harm how individuals form relationships, especially among kids.

Any distant learning that occurs needs to be organized. For example, if they are provided any homework, it needs to be clear to the parent when it's due and what the assignment entails. It would be helpful for a tracking tool like google that is capable of alerting working parents rather than having to go to the faculty website every day to get an update. If we continue this distant learning at any capacity, the alerts would help immensely (at least in my opinion) and to have the assignments submitted online. I fully support utilizing more technology the more distant learning we have.

The safety and health of everyone is my number one priority too. I am answering this survey using considerations of the current conditions and my experience of the 4th quarter remote work.

I don't think alternating school weeks would work for my children; it would be hard to get a routine. My opinion would be every day for a half day or alternating days. In my household my husband and I were both considered essential and worked through the stay at home order. It was difficult to keep up with everyone's work, if they were at least on campus every other day or a half day every day I would feel more comfortable that they were on task.

For the masks, I selected that they wouldn't wear the mask. I answered this as if it were an option, obviously if it was a requirement than yes they would wear masks. As an option, I would say no because I feel like it makes them touch their faces more frequently than if they didn't wear one.

If transportation wasn't available as an option I would drive them to school and pick them up.

Thank you for all your hard work, it certainly isn't unnoticed. The engagement of staff during the remote work was amazing. I feel very fortunate that my children are a part of such a caring community.

They would wear a mask but I can't see them wearing it all day. Also, would but the grab and go depending what it was.

Please keep working parents in mind when deciding the schedule. Half days, every day, are not that feasible and will be putting more strain on the working parents.... having to get them ready for only a couple hours then worrying about who is picking them up and watching them and continuing that days work...

I feel safe and I don't feel safe about them returning. I feel that as the school they will do everything to make sure they are in a safe and clean environment. I worry about the busing situation and classroom sizes. As for lunches my children would be half and half they will bring breakfast and lunch and purchase breakfast & lunch.

Great communication from your school.

I'm very unsure about all my answers. I would love to see an upgrade in the HVAC system to keep air moving out of the rooms. Thanks for asking! Good luck.

It would be great if somehow siblings could go on the same days.

These answers I gave are not set in stone. I would follow guidelines in hopes that there were options. Our home life on any option you gave would have to be changed unless it was going back to school like normal. We all know that is not going to happen. I am a parent who is not technological at all when it comes to programs and computers. So I hope before this starts you would be kind enough to possibly show me how to help my child. I thank every single one of you. You have given my children the best education possible.

I am not sure I would send my children if masks were optional for students. I think they should be required. More studies are being released that states that are mandating masks in public have decreasing rates while those that do not have increasing rates.

Thank you for the ongoing information and communication.

Half days are not a good option because parents cannot leave work to pick up children midday.

Virtual learning must have live teaching as if the students were sitting in the physical classroom

Would only want her in school if there isn't a spike in the virus.

I would have chosen "unsure" for the question about it being safe to return. A lot can happen in the next 2 months. We are also still working on transportation. I'd like to drive them and we can get them there in the morning, but pickup might be a challenge.

My daughter really struggled with distance learning. Maybe some type of extension or breaking up assignments for kids who have difficulty learning online.

A few of the questions are "Maybes" for my daughter. Such as a wearing a mask at school would be a Maybe because Macie get claustrophobic with a mask on. Also in regards do I feel it's safe for my daughter to return. I absolutely feel the school is safe! However kids by nature just want to be with each other and always get close.

Thank you to everyone at the Charter School for everything you do!

I feel it is not safe yet. I think remote learning should continue until the end of the year. Advise again in January 2021.

These are such hard questions to answer with certainty. I don't envy your position and I thank you for everything you're doing to keep our kids safe.

Getting a small dose of the zoom classes this past year I think we are a long way from the kids effectively learning this way.

At this time, I feel as though they can return to school but it also depends on if there is a spike in our area at the time school resumes. Public transportation would depend on guidelines, how many on bus, per seat, etc. Also, I am not opposed to a blend/mix of in-person and remote instruction.

I am not worried as much about COVID-19 As I am that students have the structure needed of actually attending school. My son and his friends stay up later then they should (which is the parents responsibility of course) but they do this because of the lack of structure and online school being set later in the day. If it was mainly or split to be online. I think it would be best to have school start at normal time and be structured like actual in school classes would be.

Regardless of my selections, I trust the Bear Creek Charter faculty and staffs decisions going forward. I want the faculty/staff and children to be safe. I am flexible on whatever you need us as parents to do. If I have to drive my kids to school, I will. If you want the kids to wear masks in school, they will, etc. Thanks for all your help and I know your doing the best you can during this trying time.

I am a home health nurse. I work with my client at school or at home . My daughter's schooling is going to have to match his if at all possible so I can work .

I have faith that BCCCS will make the right decisions for their school community for the upcoming school year. The decisions made during the end of the 2020-2021 school year were excellent. The instruction and educational needs of my son were always considered and met. His teachers did an unbelievable job to keep a personal interest in his learning and were always in contact. I was so highly impressed with how BCCCS handled the situation and I want to thank everyone for their efforts during a very difficult time.

I did not answer the question of whether I feel it is safe for my children to return to school. At this time I feel there are too many unknown variables to confidently make that decision. A lot of it depends on the plans you put into place which obviously is still a work in progress.

Being a parent who works Monday through Friday 8-5, I wouldn't need something to go with my schedule as I would not be able to do school at home until 6pm . Also my children are in the YMCA for after care until I was to get out of work and if there is no school they would be going to the YMCA I hope it is considered for parents who do not have the option to stay home to do schooling with their child on a fulltime basis. Children need social interaction to develop and I hope that comes into consideration.

You always make decisions based on what's best for our kids - thank you.

I pray that school is capable of opening in some form. I know that my son NEEDS that physical interaction to be in class. I truly don't know what we will do if there is no in person school, as per everyone knows how the struggles he had with remote learning.

I feel it is safe if precautions are in place and adhered to, and parents don't send their sick children to school. I would prefer 5 half days or 3 full set days with 2 at home. Breakfast and lunch would depend what is being served.

My daughter would get a ride to school in the morning to avoid the bus, but would take the van home. I would like her to wear a mask, but she plays with it and often has a habit of chewing on it which might be worse than not wearing one at all. I would like her to return to school, but with the recent death of a healthy student in my school district due to COVID and the rising numbers I am conflicted about what to do.

I absolutely do not feel comfortable with my daughter returning to school. She had 100% attendance for online class and did 99% of the work required including all the papers sent home.

I have all the faith in the world Bear Creek will do everything in their power to make sure my child is safe. The lunch option would be mixed. Angelo & Sicilia would buy and bring from home.

If we had to do Zoom/online learning, it would have to be actual instruction similar to what Mrs. Harry did in the spring. She has actual classes, not just 'this is the assignment and who has questions' or review. I have difficulty teaching academics, not my forte. "What do you mean you don't understand? It's right in front of you!" Is my way of teaching. LOL!

I understand the predicament we are all in and in and will do the best I can to adapt to the situation.

I wanted to clarify my answer No to I don't fully feel safe sending my son; A contributing factor is simply because we don't know how everything will be enforced (safety policies, etc) or what it will look like come September.

I feel badly about this, but I really am afraid for my daughter to be back in school. The hygiene habits of children make me very nervous, in addition to not knowing if other families have been taking this seriously (social distancing, wearing masks, etc.). As a teacher in the school I know I will have to be in the building. However, if it is truly up to me, I would prefer my daughter not be due to the young ages of her and her siblings at home and not knowing how this virus would affect them.

I think teachers should wear the face shields so children can see their faces and expressions.

I think that K-4 needs to go to school everyday even if it is only a half day.

Steps should be taken to reduce the class sizes (10-15 kids ideally).

If children go for full days then outdoor recess needs to be mandatory unless it is raining. Teachers seem to think that on a cold or chilly day it is ok to stay inside. It is not. Unless it is lower than 25 degrees or raining kids need to be outside.

If the kids only go a half-day will there be online learning/homework for the afternoon? I would like that. My children had a very difficult time as did I learning through zoom meeting. This year it has to be different. My kids need schedules and in class room learning or a virtual learning that is very much like being at school. I felt like I was teaching my kids and the teachers were just reinforcing what I had taught them on schedule that was very crazy and I felt like my family had not privacy with constant zoom meetings. If this year is going to be the same I think I would consider pulling my kids out and finding a curriculum that works for my children and I. I would hate to do that as my kids and I love BCCCS but I could not go through a full year of my children being taught through zoom meetings.

It's very important to me that my son who struggled with Kindergarten goes to school in person. He is going into 1st grade and has several learning disabilities and its very important for him to be in school. At home he gets distracted easily, no matter if he is in his room. I have faith that BC will do everything they can to keep everyone safe and I will do my part as well. I appreciate BC for allowing parents to take this survey as we are on the edge of our seats wondering what will happen for the upcoming school year. BC is the only school I want my child to be in and we are willing to comply with whatever BC decides.

I have mixed feelings as to the safety of both staff and students returning to school. I do have confidence in the school to take every necessary precaution available to keep students/staff safe. Having said that I think distance learning is more difficult for some students than others. I have three children, 1 did well, 1 struggled through with difficulties and 1 who hated it and suffered because of it. You have difficult decisions to make ahead of you. I appreciate the school asking for parental input. Thank you for all you do!

My daughter is in the PSA program currently. It has been working out very well, however, they don't sound like they are doing small groups nor distancing well. I'm concerned about the fall being the same way when there is a larger amount of children at school and on the buses.

Homeschooling is a lot harder than I ever imagined. I purposely enrolled my daughter in school so she can go to school and be taught by trained professionals. I am not a teacher, nor do I want to be one. I give educators all the credit for doing what they do.

I am a college professor. I am not comfortable with in person classes during the pandemic. COVID19 was on my NYC campus and in my classes last term. Many were sick. Some died. 1 of every 400 NYC residents died in a few months. All students, faculty, and staff should mask and distance. But, this virus is airborne. When aerosolized, it hangs in the air in rooms that are not well ventilated. It lives on surfaces. The exposure from public bathrooms alone is an issue. There is no safe way to have face to face in person classes. Please, teach online. Please do not risk lives.

I need to make sure my son, who will be in 8th grade, will be ready for 9th grade next year.

In person instruction is very important. Even if 2-3 days per week. Too hard for working parents to learn material and teach to child/children. With all CDC safety recommendations implemented, this will be a safe environment.

We would feel safe with our child returning to school, as long as proper precautions were in place. We feel masks should be worn.

I don't Feel 100 % comfortable but as long as their safety procedures being covered & checking temperatures, but if they have to go to school I understand but I would feel 100% Comfortable for a doctor to clear the children to attend to make sure people were COVID- free .

Jim, I answered these questions with the anticipation that all appropriate safety measures will be in place. Until there is a plan in place, it's hard to know how to answer these questions. I know you'll do the right thing. If I could make a suggestion - if we have to be online, can there be more regular classroom time i.e. a set few hours a day where the teacher is live with the students? For us, it would create a routine that makes it feel like a school schedule.

I want to thank you all for providing at home instruction during the recent lock down period. Bear Creek Community Charter School goes above and beyond to educate our children. I am confident that my daughter maintained her skill set and learned new material via the various virtual classes/activities and assigned work. Where other schools struggled with the "new normal", BCCCS succeeded. This is a testament to the hard-working, dedicated staff. I am beyond grateful for everything you do.

I would also consider 3 days a week at school 2 home.

We are willing to support the learning process in any way we can. We trust the school administration will make the best decisions and adjustments for the welfare of the children. However, we do not believe it is healthy (mentally, emotionally or physically) for the students to be required to wear a mask for extended periods of time or sit in isolation cubes, etc. Alex and I will make our decision, once more specific details are made available from BCCCS.

As far as masks my children have worn them when going out. I feel it may be hard to expect them to wear all day but unsure.

My kids are all looking forward to getting back to school and their routine.

I would hope that masks would be required for all, not only for the student's but also the safety of faculty and staff.

At present time I would prefer at home learning with a far more structured program.

It's hard to do zoom with working parents. How will things work with learning support teachers.

I put yes to the face mask, however, I am not sure how distracting it will be. I work with it all day and I take it off my nose when no one is in my office. Maybe if the children could go outside for fresh air more often during the day, then it might not be so bad. Ugh! Tough one.

I won't be attending the Google Classroom training because I'll probably be providing the training. ;) I know the school is doing everything it can to keep the kids and staff safe. Safety is just so uncertain now when it was a given before. However, I do think the kids need to be in school when possible.

Wish the "do you feel it safe for your child to return to school" question had an unsure option.

I am very fearful of sending my kids into school in this current status, not just for them, but I have medical conditions that put me at a higher risk if I would contract Covid-19. I know that especially for younger children, like mine, it will be very difficult to control social distancing, making it very likely that they could contract it and bring it home.

Working remotely for the kids was extremely hard for us...even though I am home I am still working full time and usually don't have the time to sit and help them through their school work. We had says where we spent all day, from 9 am to 9pm, trying to gets kids to do lesson plans and get their work done...they need the structure of being in school because we are not able to push that structure at home with both parents working full time.

I could arrange for my child to be driven to school if need be. I don't feel my son got anything out of school from home based environment. I feel (5)1/2 days in school would provide more of a consistent structure. If some days have to be from home, can they still be class room structured? I just want my child to get a good education.

My only concern is that my daughters are on the same schedule. No way will my youngest walk in to school without her sister knowing she is at home.

If bussing was not available or a problem we can provide transportation. Same with lunch or breakfast. If not available ok.

I appreciate this opportunity to provide feedback. Most schools have just said they are opening and that's that. Thank you for looking out for my child and her fellow students.

I had a HORRIBLE experience with homeschooling. Yes, the health of my kids are top priority but some of us are essential workers and cannot have our children at home. (Specially those of us that cannot afford child care) Some of us have to choose between working and making ends meet and teaching/assisting our kids at home. The amount of hours both require make it impossible for me to do them both successfully. I know this is something unforeseen for everyone and I understand the administration it's in a tough spot but I agree we all are just from different angles.

Praying this too shall pass and we can all make it work for everyone involved.

We would love to have some normalcy for our children, but it all really depends on so many variables that are out of everyone's control. We trust that you all have the staff and children's best interest at heart. We truly appreciate all you do for our school community.

I personally feel with the numbers of COVID climbing back up at a fast rate, the best solution would be distance learning. I don't feel comfortable at this time to have her in a traditional school setting. What kind of grab and go are you suggesting. How can this be healthy. Is there going to be salads available for kids vs sandwiches every day.

If at all possible, I would like to suggest that meals are brought to classrooms as to avoid too much exposure and possibility of coming in contact with the COVID virus. Thank you.

Instead of alternating days, maybe the older grades could meet in person 1 day a week for a whole day and remote learn the rest of the week.

I would like to expand upon my answer regarding wearing face masks. I have observed children, and many adults almost constantly touching the mask or their face. I believe this would negate the effectiveness and cause more harm.

Thank you for all you do!!!

My children will do whatever the school wants them to. If masks needed to be worn I feel they would be able to do it knowing it was to keep people protected. I just feel they need face to face at some level with their teachers and interaction with their classmates. I'm sure I am not the only one that worries about them not having interaction with others and the effects it has on them. As a teacher myself I feel how do we even start coming up with an ideal plan but I am grateful Bear Creek always puts the students first and that we are lucky to have a small school as to maybe be able to get more creative than these larger schools in regards to allowing them face to face education. Plus as a parent I will do anything to help the school get through this and make sure we do everything we can to make sure our children get the education they need.

Great job to the admin and staff during these unprecedented times!

These are difficult questions for me, my son has an IEP and is better equipped at school with his teachers, my daughter is a good student but needs constant reminding. I am also unsure of when I will be returning to work full time so question #7 is up in the air as well. I'm sure the best options for our children will be established, I have complete faith in BCCCS. If you need further information please don't hesitate to ask.

In my opinion Mrs Harcarik, s. Walsh and Mr. Z did a great job in teaching my son during remote learning. In person instruction is always best but the videos the teachers posted and the zoom meeting/google hangout were the next best thing and absolutely necessary.

I am unsure if it is safe for the children to return to school, that is why I did not answer that question. That will depend on a lot of factors with both the protocols set up in school and whether they will consistently be adhered to by staff, children and parents and outside factors in the community dealing with COVID-19 issues.

I love the idea of the students going one week at school and one week at home. If the same students were set up for the same week on/off that would put 1/2 the number of students in the school each week. (200 of the same kids). The school would be able to get "super sanitized" on the weekend for the next set of 200 kids to come in the next week. The other two options would put all 400 kids in the school every week thereby increasing the chance of spread of the virus by affecting more children every day of the week. Having 200 kids total in the school each week would also improve the contact tracing if the virus was introduced to the school.

Thank you!

You guys have it hard enough, you don't need opinions. Give us our options and we will choose and follow.