

Bear Creek Community Charter School



School Reopening Health & Safety Plan

Update: March 22, 2021

Revision 3

Introduction

All stakeholders should be mindful that as long as there are cases of COVID-19 in the community, there are no strategies that can completely eliminate transmission risk within a school population. The goal is to keep transmission as low as possible to safely continue school activities.

Bear Creek Community Charter School understands that the modification of the educational process due to the pandemic places a great deal of stress and responsibility on parents, and not everyone is going to be pleased with the manner in which we are responding to the unfortunate situation we have all be placed in. In addition, opinions relating to the government's response to the pandemic also vary greatly.

Bear Creek Community Charter School continues to modify school operations to ensure a safe learning environment for our students and a safe working environment for our staff. Our goal is to return all students to safe, in-person learning.

Although our latest plan is to bring all students back into the school building on a full-time basis, we cannot jump to the idea that "things are returning to normal", because they are not. To ensure a safe environment for all, we must continue to implement guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the "CDC"), as well as other measures to prevent the potential transmission of COVID-19.

Bear Creek Community Charter School will continue to review CDC data and consult with the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the school's Pandemic Planning and Coordination Team, and the Board of Trustees when making decisions that impact our student population.

Next Phase of School Re-Opening Plan

This next phase of our School Re-Opening Plan is to have all students, Kindergarten through 8th Grade, return to the school campus for in-person learning. Google Classroom and technology will continue to play a significant role in the learning process. We will continue to have the ability for students to learn from home up to five (5) days per school year under the Flexible Instructional Day program.

In revising the plan, we considered the following:

- What is critical to ensure adequate learning, which differs based on not only each student's grade/age, but also on each student's learning ability;
- Providing an environment and support for social/emotional learning, in addition to academics;
- The most current data provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
- How to balance the resources we have available to meet the needs of all students, in the safest means possible;
- Safety measures for all stakeholders, including students, staff and visitors.
- External variables that are beyond our control.

We will continue the following health and safety protocols until further notice:

- Our team will continue to meet regularly to evaluate school operations for health and safety preparedness as well as response planning;
- Steps to protect children and staff at higher risk for severe illness;
- Steps to take in relation to isolation or quarantine when a staff member, child or visitor becomes sick or demonstrates a history of exposure;
- Expectations for the posting of signs in highly visible locations, that promote everyday protective measures and how to stop the spread of germs;
- Procedures for cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting, and ventilating learning spaces;
- Procedures for the safe use of cafeterias and other congregate settings;
- Protocols for sporting activities consistent with the CDC Considerations for Youth Sports for recess and physical education classes.
- Ongoing training all faculty and staff on the implementation of this plan.
- System for ensuring ongoing communication with families.

Our plan continues to include:

- Guidelines for hygiene practices for students and staff;
- Guidelines on the use of face coverings (masks or face shields) by staff and students;
- Protocols for classroom/learning space occupancy that allow for 3 feet of separation among students and staff throughout the day when appropriate, as well as 6 feet of separation during meals or when masks are removed.
- Methods of limiting the number of individuals in classrooms and other learning spaces, and interactions between groups of students;
- Methods of staggering the use of communal spaces and hallways and ensuring regular cleaning;
- Procedures to limit the sharing of materials among students;
- Processes for identifying and restricting non-essential visitors and volunteers; and

Kindergarten

Students in Kindergarten will attend class on campus and will receive in-person instruction daily. Class sizes will continue to be reduced into three sections to ensure appropriate social distancing and to avoid disrupting students so late in the school year. Students will be separated a minimum of three (3) feet and will continue to be seated facing forward to the front of the classroom. Face coverings are required.

Kindergarten students will continue to receive instruction in all core academic subjects as well as special subjects (physical education, environmental education, art and music).

Students will be offered a grab and go breakfast each morning to be taken to their respective classroom, as long as six feet of social distance can be maintained; otherwise student will eat in the Gymnasium. Students will be offered at least two lunch options. Students will continue to eat lunch in their individual classrooms. Students must remain six feet apart when eating.

A second recess period will be implemented into the schedule for Kindergarten students, and teachers will be encouraged to incorporate learning activities that allow students to spend additional time outdoors, where possible. With the exception of inclement weather, physical education instruction and environmental education instruction will take place outdoors. Students will be required to maintain appropriate social distancing whenever possible, and will be required to wear face coverings throughout the school day.

Students at all grade levels will continue to utilize technology in the classroom, particularly Chromebooks and Google Classroom. Bear Creek Community Charter School has provided all students with a school Chromebook to facilitate learning.

Parents will continue to have access to daily attendance and grades by utilizing the online Parent Portal.

First Grade

Students in First Grade will attend class on campus and will receive in-person instruction daily. Class sizes will continue to be reduced into three sections to ensure appropriate social distancing and to avoid disrupting students so late in the school year. Students will be separated a minimum of three (3) feet and will continue to be seated facing forward to the front of the classroom. Face coverings are required.

First Grade students will continue to receive instruction in all core academic subjects as well as special subjects (physical education, environmental education, art and music).

Students will be offered a grab and go breakfast each morning to be taken to their respective classroom. Students will be offered at least two lunch options. Students will eat lunch in the Gymnasium. Students must remain six feet apart when eating.

A second recess period will be implemented into the schedule for First Grade students, and teachers will be encouraged to incorporate learning activities that allow students to spend additional time outdoors, where possible. With the exception of inclement weather, physical education instruction and environmental education instruction will take place outdoors. Students will be required to maintain appropriate social distancing whenever possible, and will be required to wear face coverings throughout the school day.

Students at all grade levels will continue to utilize technology in the classroom, particularly Chromebooks and Google Classroom. Bear Creek Community Charter School has provided all students with a school Chromebook to facilitate learning.

Parents will continue to have access to daily attendance and grades by utilizing the online Parent Portal.

Second Grade

Students in Second Grade will attend class on campus and will receive in-person instruction daily. Class sizes will continue to be reduced into three sections to ensure appropriate social distancing and to avoid disrupting students so late in the school year. Students will be separated a minimum of three (3) feet and will continue to be seated facing forward to the front of the classroom. Face coverings are required.

Second Grade students will continue to receive instruction in all core academic subjects as well as special subjects (physical education, environmental education, art and music).

Students will be offered a grab and go breakfast each morning to be taken to their respective classroom, as long as six feet of social distance can be maintained; otherwise student will eat in the Gymnasium. Students will be offered at least two lunch options. Students will eat lunch in the Gymnasium. Students must remain six feet apart when eating.

A second recess period will be implemented into the schedule for Second Grade students, and teachers will be encouraged to incorporate learning activities that allow students to spend additional time outdoors, where possible. With the exception of inclement weather, physical education instruction and environmental education instruction will take place outdoors. Students will be required to maintain appropriate social distancing whenever possible, and will be required to wear face coverings throughout the school day.

Students at all grade levels will continue to utilize technology in the classroom, particularly Chromebooks and Google Classroom. Bear Creek Community Charter School has provided all students with a school Chromebook to facilitate learning.

Parents will continue to have access to daily attendance and grades by utilizing the online Parent Portal.

Third Grade

Students in Third Grade will attend class on campus and will receive in-person instruction daily.

Students will be separated a minimum of three (3) feet and will continue to be seated facing forward to the front of the classroom. Face coverings are required.

Third Grade students will continue to receive instruction in all core academic subjects as well as special subjects (physical education, environmental education, art and music).

Students will be offered a grab and go breakfast each morning to be taken to their respective classroom, as long as six feet of social distance can be maintained; otherwise student will eat in the Gymnasium. Students will be offered at least two lunch options. Students will eat lunch in the Gymnasium. Students must remain six feet apart when eating.

A second recess period will be implemented into the schedule for Third Grade students, and teachers will be encouraged to incorporate learning activities that allow students to spend additional time outdoors, where possible. With the exception of inclement weather, physical education instruction and environmental education instruction will take place outdoors. Students will be required to maintain appropriate social distancing whenever possible, and will be required to wear face coverings throughout the school day.

Students at all grade levels will continue to utilize technology in the classroom, particularly Chromebooks and Google Classroom. Bear Creek Community Charter School has provided all students with a school Chromebook to facilitate learning.

Parents will continue to have access to daily attendance and grades by utilizing the online Parent Portal.

Fourth Grade

Students in Fourth Grade will attend class on campus and will receive in-person instruction daily.

Students will be separated a minimum of three (3) feet and will continue to be seated facing forward to the front of the classroom. Face coverings are required.

Fourth Grade students will continue to receive instruction in all core academic subjects as well as special subjects (physical education, environmental education, art and music).

Students will be offered a grab and go breakfast each morning to be taken to their respective classroom. Students will be offered at least two lunch options. Students will eat lunch in the Gymnasium. Students must remain six feet apart when eating.

A second recess period will be implemented into the schedule for Fourth Grade students, and teachers will be encouraged to incorporate learning activities that allow students to spend additional time outdoors, where possible. With the exception of inclement weather, physical education instruction and environmental education instruction will take place outdoors. Students will be required to maintain appropriate social distancing whenever possible, and will be required to wear face coverings throughout the school day.

Students at all grade levels will continue to utilize technology in the classroom, particularly Chromebooks and Google Classroom. Bear Creek Community Charter School has provided all students with a school Chromebook to facilitate learning.

Parents will continue to have access to daily attendance and grades by utilizing the online Parent Portal.

Fifth Grade

Students in Fifth Grade will attend class on campus and will receive in-person instruction daily. Students will be separated a minimum of three (3) feet and will continue to be seated facing forward to the front of the classroom. Face coverings are required.

Fifth Grade students will continue to receive instruction in all core academic subjects as well as special subjects (physical education, environmental education, art and music). Students will receive one Study Hall period each week to use to catch-up on homework, projects and to study for upcoming quizzes and tests.

Students will be offered a grab and go breakfast each morning to be taken to their respective classroom, as long as six feet of social distance can be maintained; otherwise student will eat in the Gymnasium. Students will be offered at least two lunch options. Students will eat lunch in the Gymnasium. Students must remain six feet apart when eating.

Fifth grade students will continue to receive recess, and teachers will be encouraged to incorporate learning activities that allow students to spend additional time outdoors, where possible. With the exception of inclement weather, physical education instruction and environmental education instruction will take place outdoors. Students will be required to maintain appropriate social distancing whenever possible, and will be required to wear face coverings throughout the school day.

Students at all grade levels will continue to utilize technology in the classroom, particularly Chromebooks and Google Classroom. Bear Creek Community Charter School has provided all students with a school Chromebook to facilitate learning.

Parents will continue to have access to daily attendance and grades by utilizing the online Parent Portal.

Sixth Grade

Students in Sixth Grade will attend class on campus and will receive in-person instruction daily.

Students will be separated a minimum of three (3) feet and will continue to be seated facing forward to the front of the classroom. Face coverings are required.

Sixth Grade students will continue to receive instruction in all core academic subjects as well as special subjects (physical education, environmental education, art and music). Students will receive one Study Hall period each week to use to catch-up on homework, projects and to study for upcoming quizzes and tests.

Students will be offered a grab and go breakfast each morning to be taken to their respective classroom, as long as six feet of social distance can be maintained; otherwise student will eat in the Gymnasium. Students will be offered at least two lunch options. Students will eat lunch in the Gymnasium. Students must remain six feet apart when eating.

Sixth grade students will continue to receive recess, and teachers will be encouraged to incorporate learning activities that allow students to spend additional time outdoors, where possible. With the exception of inclement weather, physical education instruction and environmental education instruction will take place outdoors. Students will be required to maintain appropriate social distancing whenever possible, and will be required to wear face coverings throughout the school day.

Students at all grade levels will continue to utilize technology in the classroom, particularly Chromebooks and Google Classroom. Bear Creek Community Charter School has provided all students with a school Chromebook to facilitate learning.

Parents will continue to have access to daily attendance and grades by utilizing the online Parent Portal.

Seventh Grade

Students in Seventh Grade will attend class on campus and will receive in-person instruction daily.

There will be a three (3) Seventh Grade homerooms. Students will be separated a minimum of three (3) feet and will continue to be seated facing forward to the front of the classroom. Face coverings are required.

Seventh Grade students will continue to receive instruction in all core academic subjects as well as special subjects (physical education, environmental education, art and music). Students will receive one Study Hall period each week to use to catch-up on homework, projects and to study for upcoming quizzes and tests.

Students will be offered a grab and go breakfast each morning to be taken to their respective classroom, as long as six feet of social distance can be maintained; otherwise student will eat in the Gymnasium.

Students will be offered at least two lunch options. Students will pick up their lunch in the Dining Hall and will eat lunch in the Gymnasium. Students must remain six feet apart when eating.

Seventh grade students will continue to receive recess, and teachers will be encouraged to incorporate learning activities that allow students to spend additional time outdoors, where possible. With the exception of inclement weather, physical education instruction and environmental education instruction will take place outdoors. Students will be required to maintain appropriate social distancing whenever possible, and will be required to wear face coverings throughout the school day.

Students at all grade levels will continue to utilize technology in the classroom, particularly Chromebooks and Google Classroom. Bear Creek Community Charter School has provided all students with a school Chromebook to facilitate learning.

Parents will continue to have access to daily attendance and grades by utilizing the online Parent Portal.

Eighth Grade

Students in Eighth Grade will attend class on campus and will receive in-person instruction daily. There will be a three (3) Eighth Grade homerooms. Students will be separated a minimum of three (3) feet and will continue to be seated facing forward to the front of the classroom. Face coverings are required.

Eighth Grade students will continue to receive instruction in all core academic subjects as well as special subjects (physical education, environmental education, art and music). Students will receive one Study Hall period each week to use to catch-up on homework, projects and to study for upcoming quizzes and tests.

Students will be offered a grab and go breakfast each morning to be taken to their respective classroom, as long as six feet of social distance can be maintained; otherwise student will eat in the Gymnasium. Students will be offered at least two lunch options. Students eat lunch in the Gymnasium. Students must remain six feet apart when eating.

Eighth grade students will continue to receive recess, and teachers will be encouraged to incorporate learning activities that allow students to spend additional time outdoors, where possible. With the exception of inclement weather, physical education instruction and environmental education instruction will take place outdoors. Students will be required to maintain appropriate social distancing whenever possible, and will be required to wear face coverings throughout the school day.

Students at all grade levels will continue to utilize technology in the classroom, particularly Chromebooks and Google Classroom. Bear Creek Community Charter School has provided all students with a school Chromebook to facilitate learning.

Parents will continue to have access to daily attendance and grades by utilizing the online Parent Portal.

Attendance and Truancy

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each day for students attending class in-person during regular school days. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class for students participate in remote/virtual instruction as part of any Flexible Instructional Days. Bear Creek Community Charter School's attendance policy and Pennsylvania's truancy law both apply. If a student is unable to attend school in-person or is unable to participate in remote/virtual instruction (Flexible Instructional Day) because of illness or other authorized reason (refer to Student/Parent Handbook), the parent/guardian must submit a written excuse to the child's teacher within three (3) school days of the absence; otherwise, the absence will be considered unlawful. Remote/virtual learning for Flexible Instructional Days also require that students complete a separate Attendance Question on their homeroom teacher's web site.

Educational Field Trips

Bear Creek Community Charter School reserves the right to decline any request for an educational field trip that the school feels is not in the best interest of the student or the school, or poses an unnecessary health/safety risk to the student or others within the school community. As conditions locally and across the world continue to evolve, the school reserves the right to restrict students from attending school for up to 10 days (quarantine) if a student travels outside the local community. Staff members will be required to comply with similar conditions regarding travel and quarantine. Trips taken without school approval are considered unexcused absences.

Hygiene Practices for Students, Staff and Visitors

All visitors will be provided with hand sanitizer upon entry to the building as part of a modified visitor check in process.

Students and staff will be encouraged daily, as part of morning announcements, to wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially prior to eating, after using the restroom, and after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing. Many classrooms have sinks, soap dispensers and paper towels within the classroom to facilitate this process.

Instructions will be posted in all restrooms reminding students and staff to wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 after using the restroom.

Students who are observed coughing or sneezing will be immediately instructed to wash their hands.

Staff members shall wash their hands upon entering the building; after using the restroom, and prior to eating in-school breakfast or lunch. Staff members who cough or sneeze shall immediately wash their hands or apply approved hand-sanitizer.

Students will be required wash their hands after each recess as well as before lunch.

Tissues will be available in all classrooms for student and staff use.

Hand sanitizer will be provided to all staff. Hand sanitizer will be available for students who do not have access to a sink in their classroom. The following products will be in use:

Assured Clear Hand Sanitizer	-	70% Ethyl Alcohol
Germ-X Instant Hand Sanitizer	-	62% Ethyl Alcohol
Purell Hand Sanitizer	-	70% Ethyl Alcohol

In the event these specific brands are unavailable, Bear Creek Community Charter School will utilize an alcohol-based hand rub/hand sanitizer with greater than 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol.

Students will not share computers or educational supplies. Individual supplies, such as glue sticks, pencils, etc. will be provided for each student's personal use. Students are assigned their own Chromebook for use throughout the school day.

Athletic equipment will be disinfected between each class period.

Social Distancing

Students are required to maintain a minimum of three (3) feet of social distance at all times, and a minimum of six (6) feet of social distancing when eating or unmasked. We will continue the following health and safety measures:

- Classes will be split into three sections of each grade, Kindergarten through Third Grade.
- Tables have been removed from classrooms such as Kindergarten, Art, Environmental Education, Science, etc. and have been replaced with individual student desks, all aligned to face forward.
- Communal spaces will not be used for student gatherings outside of modified use for instruction.
- Specialist classrooms (Art, Environmental Education, Music, Gifted Education, etc.) will be converted to regular education classrooms to allow for appropriate physical distancing among students.
- Students will be offered a grab and go breakfast each morning to be taken to their respective classroom, as long as six feet of social distance can be maintained; otherwise student will eat in the Gymnasium.
- The Gymnasium will be used for student lunch periods to allow for six (6) feet of social distancing while eating

- Classes will be assigned a designated schedule to use specific outdoor spaces for recess and “down-time”, including the playground, basketball court and play field. This will allow us to limit the number of students interacting in a specific area during a specific timeframe.
- We will continue to evaluate all “typical” school activities to determine if they can return following normal protocols, be modified to incorporate health and safety considerations, or not held at all. This includes assemblies, meetings, public events, extra-curricular activities, etc. We anticipate more and more of these activities to return as time goes on.
- Extra-curricular soccer will be held this fall, following PIAA guidelines and incorporating appropriate health and safety measures.
- Whenever possible, parent/teacher conferences will continue to be held using remote technology.
- Student IEP meetings will continue either in-person, with appropriate safety protocols, or using remote technology.
- All school wide or larger group activities will comply with the health and safety requirements designated by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, which may change from time to time.

Face Coverings

Face coverings are required to be worn by students and staff while in school. Students may remove their face coverings while eating, and seated six feet apart, in the Gymnasium.

Staff are provided different types of face coverings (cotton mask and plastic shield) to be used throughout the day. Face coverings should be worn when feasible – realizing that it may be impractical to utilize face coverings at all times throughout the school day, particularly when teaching a whole group lesson. Face coverings are to be washed daily using hot water, a standard detergent and tumble dried.

Students are also required to wear face coverings when using transportation provided by each local school district or when using transportation provided by a before/after-school care program.

Parents are urged to wash face coverings daily using hot water, a standard detergent and tumble dried. Parents will be asked to send an extra face covering to school in a paper bag (not plastic) with their child’s name written on the outside.

Any student who cannot wear a face covering or face shield due to a medical condition, including those with respiratory issues that impede breathing, a mental health condition, or disability, and students who would be unable to remove a face covering without assistance are not required to wear face coverings. Individuals who are communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing impaired or who has another disability, where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication, are not required to wear a face covering; however, individuals should consider using another type of face covering such as a plastic face shield.

Drinking Water

Although water fountains will be available and sanitized frequently, students will be discouraged from using communal drinking fountains. Bottle fillers are available throughout the school, offering filtered water. Students were provided a personal water bottle at the beginning of the school year they can utilize for drinking purposes.

Learning Support

Bear Creek Community Charter School will continue to implement and provide the appropriate modifications and accommodations included in student's Individualized Education Program and 504 Plan in compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This includes the provision of related-service such as speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and support for visual and hearing impairment.

IEP and 504 Meetings

Bear Creek Community Charter will coordinate all IEP and 504 meetings in-person, unless otherwise requested by a parent.

Student Transportation

Bear Creek Community Charter School does not provide transportation for students to and from school. As required by the Pennsylvania Charter School law, each local school district is responsible for the transportation of students residing in their district to and from Bear Creek Community Charter School on days when the charter school is in session. Although we strongly recommend students wear face coverings while riding on the school bus and maintain proper social distancing, specific requirements will vary from district to district. We encourage all parents who will be relying on public transportation to and/or from school to contact the transportation department of their local school district to become familiar with each district's COVID-19 protocols for transportation.

Wilkes-Barre Area School District 730 South Main Street Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711-0375 Phone: (570) 826-7116 Contact: Sylvia Decker	STA Bus Line 771 Scott Street Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705 Phone: (570) 823-8611 Contact: Janelle Davison
Wyoming Valley West School District Maple & Price Streets Kingston, PA 18704 Phone: (570) 288-6551 Ext. 10801 Contact: Janet Sott	Myers Bus Company 446 Elm Street Kingston, PA 18704 Phone: (570) 288-8035 Contact: Phillip Meyers
Hanover Area School District 1600 Sans Souci Parkway Hanover, PA 18706 Phone: (570) 831-2300 Ext. 179 Contact: Hollie Evans	Churnetski Bus Company 146 Hillside Street Hanover, PA 18706 Phone: (570) 824-0832 Contact: Mary Ellen
Wyoming Area School District 20 Memorial Street Exeter, PA 18643 Phone: (570) 655-3733 Ext. 2346 Contact: Angelo Falzone	Pace Transportation 123 Armstrong Road Pittston, PA 18640 Phone: (570) 883-0620 Contact: Rob Pace
Pittston Area School District 5 Stout Street Yatesville, PA 18640 Phone: (570) 654-2415 Ext. 2205 Contact: James O'Brien	Pace Transportation 123 Armstrong Road Pittston, PA 18640 Phone: (570) 883-0620 Contact: Rob Pace
Crestwood School District 281 South Mountain Boulevard Mountain Top, PA 18707 Phone: (570) 474-6782 Ext. 328 Contact: Sarah Smigelski	Rinehimer Bus Lines Inc. 1899 Slocum Road Wapwallopen, PA 18660 Phone: (570) 868-3667 Contact: Moon Eckrote

Student Dismissal – Pick Up

Bear Creek Community Charter School will continue dismiss students in groups based on “colors” through the back door of the school, beginning at 3:15 p.m. daily. Parents are encouraged to wear face coverings and maintain six feet of separation from other parents, students and staff. All students will be placed into a color group (red, green, blue, purple, yellow, etc.) and will be dismissed by group, which will allow us to control the number of children being dismissed at any given time yet allow for students residing in the same household, but in different grades, to be dismissed at the same time.

Use of Outdoor Spaces

Use of outdoor spaces for instruction will encouraged, including the courtyard, yurt, deck, pavilion, outdoor classroom, soccer field, outdoor play area and nature trails. All students will receive time for recess in their regular schedules. Students at the primary level will receive an extra block of time for recess.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The extra-curricular activities typically held at the end of the year may be cancelled, postponed or modified to take into consideration group size, social distancing requirements as well as other health and safety best practices. We are working to plan multiple year-end activities for students, including an 8th Grade Graduation Ceremony.

Visitors

Bear Community Charter School values parent interaction in the educational process – we view it as an important component of the educational process for children. That being said, due to health and safety concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the school will continue to limit non-essential visitors until further notice. Essential visitors shall primarily be educational support personnel such as behavior therapists, therapeutic support staff, etc.

Upon entering the building, all essential visitors must register at the Main Office. Along with presenting appropriate identification, all visitors shall be required to:

1. Answer a series of questions regarding whether they have been exposed to anyone with COVID-19, are displaying symptoms such as a fever or dry cough, have actually been diagnosed themselves, or have recently traveled to high-risk countries
2. Submit to a non-contact temperature check.
3. Sanitize their hands.
4. Wear a mask/face covering.

A record of each visit will be maintained in the Raptor Visitor Management System.

To limit the number of individuals in the building, Bear Creek Community Charter School will not engage student teachers during the second half of the 2020-2021 school year.

Whenever possible, non-essential meetings or visits will either be rescheduled or be held outside the school building (outdoor area or pavilion).

The Volunteer Program will be temporarily suspended for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.

To help ensure the health and safety of our students and our staff, Bear Creek Community Charter School reserves the right to restrict entry to the school building for any reason.

Cleaning & Disinfecting

Cleaning and disinfecting of all classrooms, offices, other work spaces and common areas by the housekeeping team will occur nightly between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Bear Creek Community Charter School will use *CDC Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes* as the baseline for its cleaning and disinfecting practices. Training sessions for maintenance and housekeeping staff will occur prior to the opening of school.

The following are a representative (not all-inclusive) list of cleaning and disinfecting tasks that will occur every evening:

1. All carpeted areas, including classrooms, offices, entryways, common areas, and the elevator will be vacuumed daily.
2. All tile, terrazzo and Marmoleum flooring will be swept and wet-cleaned daily.
3. All student desks, tables and chairs to be cleaned daily with liquid disinfectant and clean cloth.
4. All teacher desks and chair handles to be cleaned daily with liquid disinfectant and clean cloth.
5. All hard-surfaces in classroom (counters, window sills, door handles, white board trays, etc.) to be cleaned daily with liquid disinfectant and clean cloth.
6. All student restrooms (both group and in-classroom) will be thoroughly cleaned with liquid disinfectant and paper towels – sinks, partition doors, door handles, commodes, grab bars, fixtures and all touchable surfaces.
7. All water fountains and bottle fillers will be thoroughly cleaned with liquid disinfectant and paper towels.
8. Dining Hall tables, counters, door handles and window sills will be thoroughly cleaned with liquid disinfectant and clean cloth.
9. Furniture, door handles and all “touchable surfaces” in vestibules and common areas will be thoroughly cleaned with liquid disinfectant and clean cloth.

Additionally, routine in-class disinfecting will be done by classroom teachers and paraprofessionals as they rotate between classrooms, but at least once daily, including:

1. The classroom telephone will be cleaned with liquid disinfectant and paper towels.
2. The remote for the classroom LCD projector will be cleaned with liquid disinfectant.
3. The handles to the classroom door, teacher's desk, teacher's chair and table at the front of the room will be cleaned with a liquid disinfectant
4. As time permits, door handles, counters, and shared tables will be cleaned with liquid disinfectant and paper towels.

Each classroom will be provided with an appropriately-labeled spray bottle of approved disinfectant and a roll of paper towels. Additional supplies will be requested as needed.

Bear Creek Community Charter School utilizes MAQUAT 64-PD from Mason Chemical Company, branded Halt® by Spartan Chemical Company, as its primary disinfectant on hard surfaces. This disinfectant includes quaternary ammonium as its active ingredient, and is approved for use against the Human Coronavirus. This product was evaluated at 2 ounces per gallon use level (703 ppm quat active), in the presence of 5% serum with a ten-minute contact time and found to be effective against human coronavirus on hard nonporous environmental surfaces. (Testing is performed per EPA Guidance (DIS/TSS-7). Two separate lots are tested. Inactivation of virus must be demonstrated at all dilutions when no cytotoxicity is observed or at all dilutions above the cytotoxic level when it is observed. The data must demonstrate a 3-log reduction in viral titer for both lots.) Efficacy data is available on the school's web page under "COVID-19 Information". In the event Halt® by Spartan Chemical Company is unavailable, Bear Creek Community Charter School will utilize an alternative product recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the Environmental Protection Agency.

Outdoor Air Exchange

Bear Creek Community Charter School's facility is less than five years old and our heating, ventilation and air conditioning ("HVAC") system is modern and meets all appropriate building codes and best-practices following the national consensus standard for outside air ventilation under ASHRAE, Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality and its published addenda. Bear Creek Community Charter School will ensure its HVAC system is properly maintained and in good working order while school is in session. The Nurse's Office, restrooms and certain other spaces are also equipped with supplemental mechanical ventilation for additional exchange of indoor and outdoor air.

Monitoring Students & Staff for Symptoms/History of Exposure

Students, staff, and others will continue to be monitored to ensure they are healthy and not exhibiting signs of illness by first educating all stakeholders (students, staff, parents/guardians) on the signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

Students and their parents as well as employees will be asked to self-monitor at home each day before sending children to school and/or reporting to school or work. Bear Creek Community Charter School will provide resources and guidance to assist students, parents and staff in this process, including guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

Parents will be continually reminded as to the importance of keeping symptomatic children home from school. Each school day, the first teacher (e.g. first period, homeroom, classroom teacher) that comes in contact with students will remind students of the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 with reminders to go to the nurse immediately if feeling symptomatic. The school nurse will evaluate any individual who presents with symptoms. Staff members who feel ill will be required to stay home from school/work.

Isolating Students, Staff and Visitors with Potential Illness

If a staff, student, or other member of the school community becomes ill or has been exposed to an individual confirmed positive for COVID-19, that individual will be by the School Nurse. As necessary, the School Nurse will consult with the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The School Nurse's evaluation will include taking the temperature of the individual who presents with symptoms, isolating them from other students and staff, and requiring the individual to wear a face covering until they can be removed from the building.

Individuals will be isolated in the Nurse's Office, which is equipped with a supplemental ventilation system to evacuate airborne particles from the area. When the Nurse's Office is being used for isolation purposes, no other students and staff members will be permitted to enter. When used for isolation purposes, the Nurse's Office will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Additional nursing and support staff will be called in as necessary to support school operations, based on the needs present on any given school day. The School Nurse will be provided with additional personal protective equipment such as N95/KN95 masks, disposable gowns and plastic face shields.

Bear Creek Community Charter School will consult with the Pennsylvania Department of Health regarding cases of students or staff who are exposed to COVID-19, including length of potential quarantine and criteria for return to school/work.

Bear Creek Community Charter School will continue notify families and staff in the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the school community. Notification would take place via emails to families, and posting on our websites. Bear Creek Community Charter School will comply with the Family Educational Rights Privacy Act and the Health Insurance Privacy Portability act when disseminating health information. No student-specific or staff-specific information will be released without prior consultation with both the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the school's legal counsel.

A clearance from a medical provider will be required before a staff member or student, following a COVID-19 isolation or quarantine, is permitted to return to school.

Vulnerable Populations

Bear Creek Community Charter School recognizes that certain individuals are considered more vulnerable than others as it relates to COVID-19. Bear Creek Community Charter School will provide appropriate accommodations for students who qualify under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and will provide reasonable accommodations to employees under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Examples include implementing student-specific planning, increased social distancing strategies, increased communication with parents, the provision of additional personal protective equipment, etc.

Other Considerations

Until further notice, all non-essential staff travel is prohibited. This includes attending off-site seminars, conferences, etc.

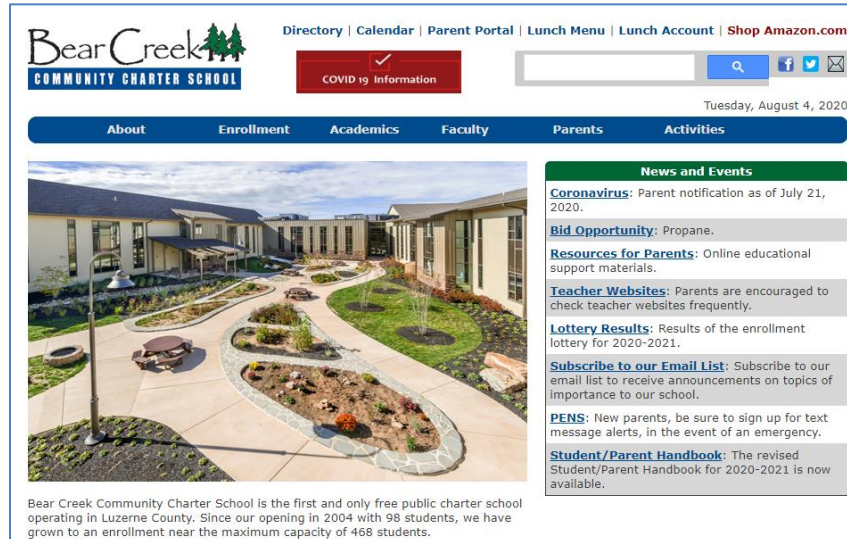
Staff members may consider bringing a change of clothes to work. Prior to leaving the school building for the day, staff members may consider washing their hands and changing their clothes – placing the clothes they wear to work in a plastic bag and immediately washing them upon returning home for the day, and discarding the bag they were transported in.

Notice: Subject to Change

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, medical professionals are learning more about the transmission of the virus. As such, guidance will continue to change. Bear Creek Community Charter School reserves the right to change its policies and operating procedures based on the latest guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other professional sources of information.

Additional Information

Additional information regarding COVID-19 and its impact on school operations can be found on the School's web site at www.beracreekschool.com → click on COVID 19 Information at the top of the page.



Bear Creek Community Charter School is the first and only free public charter school operating in Luzerne County. Since our opening in 2004 with 98 students, we have grown to an enrollment near the maximum capacity of 468 students.

Reopening School & COVID 19

Bear Creek Community Charter School's Plan

The health, safety, and well-being of our students and our staff is our highest priority. Everyone wants life to return to normal, including our school environment. That being said, we are faced with not only an extraordinary public health crisis, but also a great deal of uncertainty. That uncertainty, coupled with little scientific data available and a great deal of differing opinions, makes the process of reopening school extremely complicated. To further complicate matters, we need to consider a host of ancillary issues as well as guidance that is frequently changing and can also conflict with existing state and federal law. Decision-making must consider the following factors, just to name a few:

- The changing environment related to the COVID-19 virus, including increases and decreases in infection rates.
- Guidance from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.
- Guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education.
- Logistics associated with prevention and mitigation strategies such as social distancing, wearing masks, personal hygiene, student/staff illness, etc.
- Concerns and personal beliefs of parents, which may vary significantly.
- Home life situations such as parents working, lack of internet access, lack of access to technology.
- Requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act.
- Requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- Requirements of Section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Transportation logistics of ten different local school districts.

Bear Creek Community Charter School is working to develop a plan that will allow for in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible, **based on current circumstances**. Because of developmental concerns relating to primary-aged children, our goal is to provide as much continuity for in-person instruction as possible for students in Kindergarten through Fourth Grade. Bear Creek Community Charter School will place a greater emphasis on integrating technology into the educational process in all grades. Due to physical space limitations resulting from social distancing requirements, students in Grade 5 through Grades 8 may be exposed to a hybrid-learning environment, to include a combination of in-person instruction and distance learning.

Other aspects of school operations are also being evaluated such as movement of students and staff within the building, use of outdoor areas, serving of breakfast and lunch, school health services, etc. Every aspect of regular school operations will be



COVID-19 Updates

- Update July 21, 2020
- Update July 2, 2020
- Update June 21, 2020
- Update April 10, 2020
- Update March 31, 2020
- Update March 29, 2020
- Update March 13, 2020

Other Resources

- COVID-19 Self Check
- COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions
- Family Survey 2020
- Daily Disinfectant

Bear Creek



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