



# **BULLIS** charter school

A CALIFORNIA K – 8 PUBLIC SCHOOL

## **FAQ on Reopening in 2020-2021 School Year**

*Last Updated: September 17, 2020*

### **What's the latest on plans for in-person learning?**

On September 8, California moved Santa Clara and several other counties from the most restrictive “purple tier” to the less stringent “red tier.” Schools can start in-person instruction if the county stays off the purple tier for 14 days. For information on the tiers - <https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/>

In addition, county and state officials are still reviewing the BCS waiver application to begin providing some in-person learning. Whether through a waiver or through improving public health conditions in the county, we may be able to start having small groups of students on campus as soon as late September or early October.

As outlined in our revised Reopening Plan --

<http://www.bullischarterschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/BCS-Reopening-Plan-Revised.pdf> -- we will bring back small groups of students, in stages -- beginning with the earliest grades and students who need additional support -- so that we can evaluate and improve health and safety procedures at each stage. **Please review the plan carefully**, since it has been adjusted based on feedback from county officials, including about daily symptom checks for all students and adults.

While we prepare for a potential return to some in-person learning, we are also focused on making sure our remote learning program provides the best possible experience for BCS students and families. The answers below reflect our plans to provide in-person and hybrid learning options once we are able, either through a waiver or Santa Clara County staying off the purple tier for 14 days.

### **1. Why can't students in all grade levels return to campus full time?**

To ensure we are complying with the guidelines set forth by Santa Clara County Public Health Department, when we are allowed to resume in-person learning, we must practice social distancing with staff and students to protect the safety of our students, staff, and families. Room spacing and constraints limit us from having all students on campus while still complying with the outlined guidelines.

### **2. Why not bring back grades 4 and 5 full time?**

Our goal is to bring 4th and 5th grade students back on campus full time, but that will significantly increase the number of students on campus, and make social distancing more difficult. It will also create challenges with drop-off and dismissal. As we learn more about managing classroom and outdoor spaces, we will build a plan to bring 4th and 5th grade students in some structured capacity.

### **3. How are you utilizing all the outdoor spaces that BCS has for instruction?**

When air quality related to the wildfires improves, we anticipate utilizing outdoor spaces for specials to operate with cohorts of classes, to provide students with recess & break space, and to provide outdoor

lunch opportunities. Additionally, we have designated walking pathways to ensure social distancing is complied with outdoors.

**4. Are you considering staggering start and end times?**

We are gathering more information in our Operations Task Force to determine if this makes sense. If we do stagger we believe it will be for a minimal amount of time, to account for fewer students during drop-off and pick-up.

**5. Are you requiring masks?**

At this point, we will continue to follow California, SCCOE, and Department of Public Health guidelines to meet the requirements for students, based on age range. The new California order requires all teachers, staff, and all students grade 3 and above to wear masks while at school, and we will require K-2 students to also wear masks while at school. While it may be challenging for our youngest students, teachers will encourage all students to wear masks in classrooms. We have worked extensively with our Health Task Force to devise the best safety measures to put in place for students.

**6. Will students have to wear their masks all day without breaks?**

We will build in opportunities for our students to have breaks throughout the day where they can remove their masks and socially distance outdoors, including during recess.

**7. Will there be social distancing in TK-3 classrooms?**

Yes. Our TK-3 classes are already small, and we have mapped each classroom to ensure that we have space for appropriate social distancing. We will also change the layout of these rooms, and use outdoor spaces, to provide more space between students.

**8. Will students be able to opt into remote learning and can they change their minds?**

We are sending new surveys to parents (in stages, beginning with K-1 students) to clarify their preference for remote or hybrid learning models. In order to ensure that we can continue to meet the needs of both remote and in-person learners, we will need families to remain in the model they choose in the next few weeks through the end of December 2020. If students need to be medically quarantined, they will be transitioned to 100% remote learning and may opt back in after their 14th day.

**9. Will we provide child care for families of essential workers?**

We hope our model will enable all families to plan and manage their work schedules. For families who are essential workers and unable to have their children at home during remote learning days, our goal is to offer on-site locations for their children to engage in remote learning. Parent responses to surveys will help us prepare this service.

**10. Will you be able to provide devices for all students?**

We have purchased additional devices so that we can support all learners at school and support those at home who do not have access to a device.

### **11. Will there be different teachers for remote learning?**

We may have dedicated teachers for remote learning. That may depend on the number of students who need to stay with 100% remote learning all year long, and on the structure we create to help our teachers manage teaching and preparation time. This is one of the reasons why we need parent input about your preferences to make our plans more definite.

### **12. What other preparations are you making to protect health and safety?**

- All surfaces and materials will be fully sanitized between different cohorts of students.
- Plexiglass stands for teachers to use in classrooms, and to use as dividers.
- Assigned seats for all students that strengthen social distancing.
- Designated pathways throughout the school to guide one-way walking patterns.
- Designated entry and exit points for all students during arrival and departure.
- Limiting the number of people on campus each day.
- Additional handwashing and sanitizing stations for use outside.
- Masks and additional PPE equipment available for all teachers and students. We have received hundreds of masks and other PPE from Santa Clara County Office of Education.
- New air filters will be installed in all classrooms by LASD before in-person classes begin.
- Protocols for frequent hand washing inside and outside classrooms (all classrooms will have access to a sink.)
- Expanded our cleaning schedule to ensure that all classrooms and surfaces are cleaned and sanitized daily.
- Consistently reviewing the latest county and state recommendations on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other materials and procedures that will help protect students, families, teachers and staff.

### **13. What about houses, assemblies, trips, intersessions, co-curriculars, clubs, performances, etc.?**

We are working hard to ensure that these opportunities and events are still part of your child's BCS experience, even though they may look a bit different. There is a task force dedicated to this work.

### **14. What happens if a student or teacher gets sick in a class?**

We are preparing an isolation tent on each campus, so that if a student or teacher shows signs of illness, they can go there and be seen by the school nurse. If your child shows signs of illness, the nurse will call you, and we will need you to come get your child within an hour.

### **15. How will recess and lunch work?**

There are several steps we will take to ensure that recess and lunch procedures are safe.

- We'll stagger lunch and recess times so that students can continue to maintain social distance during those periods.
- We will space students out at lunch tables.
- Families will not be able to drop lunches off at school.
- Students will be eating lunches in classrooms or designated outdoor spaces, so that cohorts remain separate.
- Each cohort will have designated spaces outside for recess.

**16. Will Middle School students move from one classroom to another?**

No. Teachers will rotate through different classrooms as needed.

**17. Will students be sharing devices and supplies at school?**

We are working to ensure that every student has their own device and their own supplies to use. We also know that students -- especially younger students -- like to share, so we will ensure that devices and supplies are cleaned and sanitized as necessary.

**18. Will remote learning be synchronous or asynchronous?**

Based on what we learned in the spring, remote learning will combine synchronous and asynchronous activities. Students will have opportunities to learn (remotely) with their classmates and in groups as well as have time to work on their own.

**19. Will Kindergarten/TK classes (morning and afternoon) continue to share rooms?**

All Kindergarten/TK classes will have their own designated classrooms so that morning and afternoon classes do not share the same space.

**20. Am I able to volunteer in my child's classroom?**

Based on SCCOE's guidelines, parent volunteers are not permitted in classrooms. We are working with the BBC to get creative in how we can still continue to utilize volunteers to support teachers across campuses.

In addition, here are a few questions and answers from our online town halls in August:

- **Why aren't my children in the same class as their friends?**  
Over the summer, we've tried to balance a variety of issues in designing class placement and scheduling. As you can appreciate, the pandemic has made this much more challenging than usual. When we had to shift to 100% remote learning, many other factors had to be taken into account in order to create equitable class lists, and we expect class lists may change as we transition back to in-person learning. We know every BCS classroom will be a welcoming environment for all students.
- **How will extra-curriculars work?**  
We know how important it is to continue sparking curiosity and creativity, especially in a time like this. After we take time to ensure that basic school activities and schedules are launched, we'll have more information about plans to continue extra-curricular activities.