



Quick Look - Blytheville School District FAQ's 2020-21 School Year

What is the first day for students? School will begin on August 24, 2020, per the governor's decision for both traditional and virtual academy students. This date will only change if the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) sends updated guidance with this requirement.

What learning options will Blytheville offer in the 2020-21 school year?

Blytheville will offer two learning options for Fall 2020:

A) **Traditional Blended learning**, which combines face to face instruction and digital learning. The main mode of delivery will be face to face, but instructional videos and all materials will be uploaded into the Lincoln Learning BUZZ platform. In the event of inclement weather or a mandated school closure, students will be prepared to transition to virtual learning offsite using this same learning management system. B) **Blytheville School District Virtual Academy (BSDVA)**, in which students will receive off site instruction through the use of digital instruction and curriculum using the Lincoln Learning BUZZ platform. Students will be allowed to participate in sports and other electives. Chromebooks will be provided. Families who opt for virtual learning should plan to have Wi-Fi available. All state assessments must still be completed on-site.

Will students be doing AMI packets if they choose to stay home?

No, students will be required to utilize the online learning platform Lincoln Learning BUZZ to access all learning which will be current instruction and not a review of learning like the printed AMI packets were in the spring.

Can students transition back and forth between virtual learning and blended learning?

Students must commit to either virtual or blended learning options for at least a semester. The only variance in this will be for extenuating circumstances per the principal's discretion.

Who will be required to wear face coverings? Board Policy 1.24 approved July 13, 2020 Until further action of the Board, **all students in kindergarten through the 12th grade** shall be required to wear a mask or face covering (a) while attending school or a school function in any school building, facility or other area of a school campus, and (b) when riding in school- provided transportation. All masks and face coverings must cover the nose and mouth of the student. This policy applies to students waiting outside school buildings before and after school, and to students waiting at bus stops. Students shall wear masks and face coverings at all times except for the following:

1. Students may remove masks and face coverings for eating or drinking;
2. Students may remove masks and face coverings when appropriate social distancing measures are in place as determined by a teacher or school administrator
3. Students may be exempted from this policy by the school principal due to a documented medical condition of the student;
4. Students may remove masks and face coverings on a case-by-case basis for specific instructional needs, including physical education activities, as determined by a teacher, in which case the teacher will utilize appropriate social distancing measures to the extent possible; or Students may be exempted from this policy due to special behavioral or individualized needs as determined by the Director of Special Services.

Students who refuse to wear a mask or face covering at school or at a school function under this policy shall be required to leave the school campus consistent with Board Policy 4.25 on student dress. Students who refuse to wear a mask or face covering on a school bus shall be subject to Board Policy 4.19 on student conduct while riding a bus.

Until further action of the Board, **all employees** of Blytheville Public Schools shall be required to wear a mask or face covering while working or attending a school function in any school building, facility or other area of a school campus. All masks and face coverings must cover the nose and mouth of the employee. Employees shall wear masks and face coverings at all times except for the following:

1. Employees may remove masks and face coverings for eating and drinking.
2. Employees may remove masks and face coverings when appropriate social distancing measures are in place; or
3. Employees may be exempted from this policy by the school principal or the Superintendent of Schools due to a documented medical condition of the employee.

Who can provide the face coverings? Parents may provide face coverings for students as long as they meet ADH guidelines covering the mouth and nose and having at least two layers. Any image or wording on the masks must meet board policy for student dress code.

Will visitors and/or nonessential personnel be allowed to come into the school? Entry to the building will be limited to admit only essential business. No lunch visitors or volunteers will be allowed at this time. In the event that a conference is needed with a teacher or administrator

accommodations will be made available to meet in a socially distanced setting. Parents must pass screening and wear a mask before meeting with school personnel.

Will we have open house or parent teacher conferences? Yes, but these events will be virtual when possible. Schools are creating virtual open house tours, there are videos to share about virtual options, and all students will be learning from home on scheduled parent conference days so teachers can schedule virtual or face to face conferences with parents.

Will students and adults be screened daily? All faculty and staff will complete a daily screening tool. Students will be screened daily by their parents at home and will have their temperature checked when they arrive on campus.

Will social distancing guidelines be observed? Social distancing will be observed as much as feasibly possible but at times students will be closer than the recommended 6 feet apart. When social distancing requirements cannot be maintained such as class exchange time, etc., students will be wearing face coverings and encouraged to use hand cleaner upon entering a new area.

Will classrooms be arranged differently to protect students? Yes, classrooms have been rearranged to provide more space between students. That might mean all desks are arranged in rows facing in a single direction, tables have been moved, or plastic screens or barriers will be in place. We will make every effort to provide distance but not limit students' ability to interact and communicate with others in their classroom. Additionally, supplies and materials will not be shared by students.

How normal will the day be for a student? Our goal is for your student(s) to have as normal of a day as possible while we also provide as much safety as possible. Some students will transition from one class to another and some teachers will move from class to class so students can remain in place. Possible modifications may occur with state guidance. Sanitation will occur on a regular basis.

Will students at the elementary still have extra classes like PE, art, music, guidance and library? Yes, students will continue to participate in activity classes, check out library books, and receive guidance from the counselor. In some cases, the teacher may present their lesson in the student's classroom to reduce the amount of cleaning needed. In others situations, such as PE, students may have an assigned area in the gym with specific materials assigned to their classroom. Outdoor, as well as other modifications, may be utilized as well.

Will my middle or high school student be able to participate in sports or clubs? Yes. Many student athletes have currently returned to campus to begin practice based on ADH and Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) guidance. We anticipate there will be sports activities in the fall with possible modifications required by ADH and AAA. School clubs may be modified to meet virtually and students who are in the virtual academy are welcome to participate following the school guidelines for club participation.

Will my primary or elementary student have recess? Yes. Primary and Elementary students will have outdoor play time for physical activity with restrictions that limit the number of students they come in contact with. Additionally, playground equipment will be sanitized between groups of students.

Where will my child eat lunch? Based on current guidance, the ADH is recommending cafeterias limit the capacity of students in the cafeteria. We will adjust lunch schedules or use alternative areas and some students will eat lunch in their classrooms. Social distancing requirements will be maintained as much as possible. Meals will be served in “to-go” style trays. Students’ meals will be served to them along with disposable utensils and choice of drink (milk/juice). Proper sanitation of all areas will be completed after each meal.

Will water fountains be available? Parents are encouraged to send a water bottle with their students since water fountains will not be available. Water fill stations will be available to refill bottles in each building.

Will bus transportation be provided? Yes, the district will provide bus transportation for students before and after school. All students will be required to wear face coverings when riding the bus.

If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, what will happen? In the event an individual tests positive, we will follow the latest guidance from the Arkansas Department of Health. We will be in direct contact with ADH. This could result in a brief closure of a single classroom or school within the district to provide time for additional cleaning and sanitation.

What if a student is forced to stay home or quarantine due to COVID-19? The student will continue to receive new instruction from their school provided device using the Lincoln Learning BUZZ platform.

What happens if the schools have to close for a time again? Students will be prepared to access the Lincoln Learning BUZZ platform on the school provided Chromebook from home and current lessons will be provided so learning can continue from home.