

**Updates from the District Office**

March 9, 2021

Dear BSCSD Parents and Caregivers –

1. **2021-22 School Calendar** – At last week’s Board of Education meeting, the Board approved the [2021-22 School Calendar](#). Please note that the first day of school is Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> as this is different than some districts in the area who will not start until the 8<sup>th</sup> or the 9<sup>th</sup>.
2. **Board of Education Meetings** – Although the Governor has extended the rules for allowing Boards of Education to meet remotely through March 28<sup>th</sup>, the BSCSD Board of Education is meeting in-person with virus mitigation rules in place. Members of the public may attend under these rules or may view the meetings via livestream. For those attending remotely, public comment may be submitted through our dedicated BOE email box. More information on this can be found [HERE](#).
3. **K-5 Schedule and Traffic Concerns** – Thanks to all K-5 parents for adjusting to the new in-person schedule that started on Friday. We are aware of the traffic flow issues and are working on solutions utilizing additional staff and determining whether changes to the entrance routines from Route 67 will need to be altered. Please continue to follow the rules and staff direction so as to make this as smooth as possible. Please also know we appreciate your patience.
4. **COVID-19 Positive Cases** – Late Friday and over the weekend we were notified of additional positive cases with one coming from a student in our PTech program at the Malta HVCC campus (12 students are in mandatory quarantine as a result) and the other from a staff member at Wood Road who has not been on campus during their period of infection and therefore no tracing was required. Both cases have been added to our [COVID Tracker site](#). For those who also like to know what the county and statewide percent positive rates are, you can see this information at the [NY Forward website](#).
5. **NYS Travel Restrictions** – We are very pleased that the February vacation did not result in a significant uptick in positive cases. As we now think about the impact that April might have, last week Governor Cuomo announced a change in travel restrictions for those who have been fully vaccinated and stated that no quarantining or testing would be necessary. However, at this time there has been no change to the NYS DOH Travel Advisory and Saratoga County is unaware of any such change. We will update you should we receive information that confirms or alters this announcement.
6. **Changes to Social Distancing Requirements in Schools** – There has been discussion around the state about modifying the social distancing requirements in classrooms and on school buses so as to allow more students to attend in-person learning and/or to alleviate the split classrooms that are in place in many districts including our own. After discussions with our County Health Commissioner last week, no such changes are anticipated here as our percent positive rates for COVID-19 have stubbornly remained in the low to mid 2% range

for a number of weeks now (as shown on the NY Forward website above) and no changes have been made at the state level. Again, should we receive any information that would change our current practices we will let you know.

7. **Student Clubs and Fall 2 Sports Season** – This week our *Fall 2* sports season is officially underway for junior varsity and varsity Girls Soccer, junior varsity and varsity Boys Soccer, junior varsity and varsity Girls Volleyball, junior varsity and varsity Football, and Modified Swimming. The District has not yet determined what the policy will be for spectators in these sports but will follow up with you in a future *Update*. In addition, a number of clubs and activities have had their safety plans approved and have begun or will shortly begin meeting. So long as there is no impact on our ability to keep schools open for in-person learning, we continue to slowly allow for the addition of clubs and activities for our students.
8. **Class of 2034** –To prepare for Kindergarten student registration this spring, a *Kindergarten Parent Orientation* night will be held on **March 10, 2021 from 6:30-7:30pm**. For everyone's health and safety, ***this year's orientation will be held virtually*** utilizing a video conference meeting format. Anyone with an incoming Kindergarten student who has not already contacted us is asked to call the Registration Office at (518) 602-0256. Registered students/parents will receive additional information about the meeting including the links to the presentation before March 10, 2021.
9. **Free Meals for ALL BSpa Students** - Our food service continues to prepare FREE meals for all students in the district - for in-school students, remote learners and for everyone when the district is on remote learning only. They offer two pickup days with multiple meals provided for students. Families of remote learners may pick up meals at the front entrance to the Gordon Creek Elementary School (on Route 67 just west of the village) between 1:15 – 2:15pm on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Finally, **please** complete all portions of the **Pinpoint Health** screener each day including temperature checks (we still have many families not reporting as required by the state DOH). Also, continue to encourage your student(s) to [stay vigilant](#) in mask wearing, social distancing, avoiding large crowds and practicing good hygiene as these are the critical steps that will keep us all healthy thereby allowing our schools to **stay** open.

Thanks very much.

Ken

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Ballston Spa CSD