



Updates from the District Office

November 24, 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers – A few updates for your attention today as we begin the Thanksgiving Recess:

1. **School Reopenings** – On November 30, we expect that all schools will be open for both in-person and remote learning. As noted in prior communications, if there are any changes to this we will notify you as soon as we are able so that the ever-challenging child care arrangements can be made. Also as previously noted, any communications prior to 9:00pm will be through email, text, and phone call to ensure that you receive our messages.
2. **Instructional Model and Transportation Appeals** – Just a reminder that if you are interested in changing the instructional model for your child, please contact your child's building principal. As it current stands, our "rolling appeals" process appears to be working quite well and we will update you by or before December 18 if we anticipate any changes to this process.
If your child attends in person learning and now needs transportation, please complete the [appeals form](#) which includes information for how to submit the completed form electronically or through the mail.
3. **Testing and Tracing**: In our last Update on November 16, I discussed the steps that we were taking to prepare to be able to stay open if any of our schools or our District as a whole were to be designated as a "yellow zone" under the [New York State Cluster Action Initiative](#). Next week we will be sending out additional information on our testing plan, a video on what the process entails, and a *Request for Consent* form to allow us to test staff and students as a part of the required 20% random testing of in-person students and staff. This will be a Google form that will be easy to complete. **Again this preparation is being done *only in case* we were to become a designated yellow zone which is currently not the case.**
4. **Winter Sports Opportunities** – At the November 18 Board of Education meeting, the Board approved our recommendation to allow low-risk sports (bowling, Alpine skiing, and boys swimming and diving) to go forward in the upcoming season as we await further direction from the NYS Department of Health on high-risk sports (girls and boys

varsity basketball, boys hockey, and cheer/dance). In the meantime, indoor track, a moderate risk sport is still undecided as there is no schedule and no available venues within the section at which to hold meets. Section 2 issued a survey today to see what districts preferences were on this sport in particular. We will update you once we have further direction from the Section as two of the survey options were to a) move the sport to a January 4 start date or b) to cancel the season in its entirety.

5. **REMINDER: PLEASE COMPLETE The NYS Education Department (NYSED) Digital Equity Survey** – We are asking for parents, teachers, and administrators to [complete this survey](#) by Monday, November 30 so that we can share the results with NYSED thereafter. *We anticipate this will take no more than 10 minutes to complete.* We are not surveying students at this time, but do anticipate doing so at a later date. Thank you!
6. **The Thanksgiving Holiday** – As you might expect, our Pinpoint daily health screening will not be sent to you until Monday, November 30. Otherwise, on behalf of the entire BSCSD team, **we wish you all a happy, healthy, safe, and restful Thanksgiving.** I speak for all of us when I tell you how truly grateful we are for our students; for our parents and caregivers; for our faculty, staff, and administration; for this remarkable community; and for all of our partners who work with us on everything from our curricular programs to our districtwide *Backpack Program* which provides hundreds of meals to our families in need. Let's all continue to work hard together this holiday so that each of us can continue to be truly grateful for our health and the health of our family and friends.

Take good care.

Ken

Ken Slentz
Superintendent of Schools
Ballston Spa Central Schools