

Spartan FAQs

Here are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions regarding the Spartan Restart plan. The FAQ will be updated as guidance, requirements and plans evolve; please check back often. **The latest information will be updated in maroon.** Email your questions to: SpartanRestart@boardmanschools.org

Last updated: August 30, 2020

GENERAL

Q) When is the start of the school year?

The first day of school will be Monday, September 14, for all BLS students. (both in-person and remote learners)

Q) Will the school calendar be adjusted to reflect the 2 week delay, for instance will holidays and breaks still be observed?

The delayed start will not lead to other adjustments. The 2020-21 school calendar will be otherwise unchanged--Holidays and breaks will remain the same.

Q) What is Boardman's policy on field trips or concerts?

All field trips, assemblies or concerts are canceled for at least the first 9 weeks. The District will revisit the policy in late October/ early November to see if guidance from the Ohio Health Department, CDC, and local health officials warrant a change.

Q) How do you know for sure that temperatures are going to be taken at home. That every household has a thermometer or some way of taking a body temperature? How can you be sure no parent or guardian is sending their child to school with a temperature?

The entire restart plan is built upon layers of trust. There are no guarantees that door thermometers will scan every child. Different pain relievers can be given to students to mask temperatures. Also, a temperature check at the door does not catch the student who rode the bus and potentially created contacts. We all have to do our part in making this work.

Q) Has the school considered hybrid learning?

Yes, it was looked at very closely. However the board decided on the current format of 5 day in person and 5 day remote learning models at this time.

Q) Will the school relax the number of absences allowed before an absent warning letter is sent? I always kept my kids home when they were feeling sick or had a temp. Every year I would get a letter saying how many days my kids were absent!

Attendance letters are tied into the number of hours missed, and the notification must go out by state law. However, because so many schools across the state may have this issue-this year especially- there may be some loosening of those rules at the state level. We have not received any direction from the state on this at this time. We advise parents to keep their children at home when ill.

Q) School supply lists have hand sanitizer and Clorox wipes listed. These items are difficult to find at this time. Can we rely on the school to provide these items for students?

The district has ordered 410 automatic (touchless) sanitizer dispensers for all classrooms, as well as on all buses. Plans for mobile touchless sanitizing stations are also in place for high traffic areas (such as hallways, outside cafeterias, etc) Students may still want to have a pocket size sanitizer in their book bags.

We understand how difficult it is to find "Clorox wipes"---these have always been on our classroom lists, so we did not remove them. However, we definitely would gratefully accept donations, if any parents are fortunate to find them for a classroom.

Q) When must I choose between the in- person or remote learning option?

Parents who want their children to learn from home, must register for remote learning by Friday, August 7. If you did not receive the remote learning registration form by mail [CLICK HERE](#) **The remote registration form must be returned to Central Office located at BHS by Aug. 7.**

Q) Will after school care still be offered and for which buildings?

Before and After School Care will be offered at the elementary buildings and at BCIS. Before school care is available at 6:30 AM until the building start time. After school begins at 1:15-6:30 PM at elementary schools, and from 3:30-6:30 PM for BCIS. Cost is \$5 an hour for the first child, with reduced rates for additional children.

REMOTE LEARNING

Q) If a student is remote learning, do they get a different supply list or buy what's on the in- person list?

This is something you might want to check with your individual building leaders about. In general, the items on the supply lists are to help organize, and to complete assignments. Anything listed such as "tissues" for building use may be eliminated.

Q) Will lunches be available for Remote Learners?

Yes, Meals will be available--but they must be pre-ordered online (online order form on Boardman Schools website) **each week**, by the Sunday prior at 3 PM. (5 breakfasts/5 lunches)

Pickup for meals will be on Mondays at Boardman High School door #9 (regardless of the building the students would attend). Parents must have the student ID number to get meals.

Cost would be the same as in person learners:

If your child qualifies for Free Lunch, it is free.

Reduced students will be charged \$3.50 per week.

K-8 students who are Full Pay will be charged \$21.25

9-12 Full Pay students will be charged \$23.75.

No Cash accepted/checks to Boardman Local Schools/ Payschool lunch accounts preferred

Q) For remote learners, how will we be getting our books for classes? especially if the student finds it easier to have the physical copy of school books?

This will be worked out at the building level. More information will be available closer to the start of school in September.

Q) In March when we had to go remote due to the Covid 19 and had to use zoom there were a lot of issues so I was wondering if they will be using any type of backup if there are any issues with Zoom once school starts back up?

Zoom and Google Classroom will be our platforms. We plan on developing PD for parents. Only students will be invited through Zoom. Links will not be shared in a public forum.

Q) For elementary particularly, are there teachers that will be designated specifically for virtual learning and in person?

In some cases, teachers will be responsible for a class that includes both in person and remote learners. There may be some remote only teachers who will be used to bring individualized attention for students when needed. There may also be cases where remote only Boardman teachers will instruct only remote students. This may be determined by individual building needs.

Q) If there is a mandated change to go to all remote, will children that have been in the classroom have the same teacher?

Yes.

Q) Also, if children had been virtual and then decide to change to in-person learning, will they have the same teacher?

(updated) Yes, in most cases students will have teachers who are responsible for in person, as well as remote only learners. In other words, students will be assigned to a classroom teacher.

Q) If the school shuts down due to high covid cases, how will the in person students get transitioned to remote learning? Will it be the same remote learning the other students are doing?

In-person students will continue with their current classroom teachers but in a remote setting.

Q) Will I be able to take the same classes via remote learning as I would in school?

Yes, for the most part. There may be some electives or special classes that would be difficult to offer remotely:(i.e. woods class)

Q) Will there be advanced classes offered in the remote learning option?

Yes, advanced classes will be available through remote learning.

Q) Can we switch back to in-person learning at the 9 week mark?

Yes. Remote learning is a 9 week commitment. At the end of the first grading period you may switch. The end of the 1st grading period is Friday, November 6.

Q) If I choose remote learning, will technology be provided?

Yes, we will work with families individually to make sure they have the correct technology.

Q) Will remote learning follow a daily schedule?

Yes, our goal is for remote learners to have the same educational opportunities as our in-person learners. There will be dedicated hours for remote learners and staff in respect to both students and staff that encourage a normal school routine. However, this may or may not follow the regular building schedule.

Q) Will there be live sessions via zoom with teachers, and how often will they be?

That will vary according to building and grade level but our intent is that **new** instruction will be recorded or presented via zoom along with teacher designated office hours that will enable more time for questions.

Q) Will the kids that are remote learning interact with other kids, on line? For questions and answers? Through zoom?

The intent of the remote learning program is for as much interaction as possible between student/teacher via live and recorded methods. Zoom will be the mode for live interaction, and depending on child's age/building/teacher preference--groups of students may be involved.

Q) How would students who chose remote learning do gym?

At this time, our teachers are working on plans for unique classes such as gym. Our intent is to offer Phys Ed in some form for our remote learners, exactly what that may look like is still being developed.

MUSIC PARTICIPATION

Q) How will band students who received lessons from private instructors receive those lessons? Will they still be able to be included in the band?

During the pandemic, the district is minimizing the amount of non-essential people in the school buildings. Though we feel private music instructors are very important, they teach in smaller spaces that may have minimal air flow. Therefore, they will not be teaching at the school buildings during or after the school day at this time.

Private lessons are strongly encouraged and many private teachers are doing virtual or outdoor lessons at this time. Your school music teacher will be able to provide you and your child with a list of teacher names and the types of lessons they are conducting during this time.

All students (remote and in person) in grades 5-12 who choose to be in band will be part of band class. Remote students will receive instruction via google classroom.

Q) Are private lessons still required for band?

Private lessons are strongly encouraged for all instrumental music students. They are not a requirement.

Music Participation

All students in grades K-12 WILL have access to music class. Please be assured that our music staff will strive to provide your child with the same music experience online as they would receive if they were in the traditional classroom. Please contact the music department chairperson with any questions regarding online music classes:

michele.prokop@boardmanschools.org

Extra-Curricular Music Groups (Project Mayhem, Spartan Singers):

- During the pandemic and time of remote learning, these groups will be offered based on enrollment and proper instrumentation.
- As with any extra-curricular activity, attendance is mandatory.
- Remote learners will need to be in attendance for rehearsals, masks will be required and proper social distancing is to be observed.

Marching Band:

Boardman High School Band students who will be attending the Boardman Online Learning Platform during the pandemic will be permitted to participate in any marching band performances provided they did not opt out of participation in summer band rehearsals. They must complete two weeks of in-person training and rehearsals to learn the music and drill in August.

Performances:

All music ensembles rely on in-person preparation for performances. Remote learners will have access to the class curriculum, however their absence from an ensemble may make it impossible for them to perform. Performances will not take place if the

instrumentation of the in-person learner does not support the group. For example, if instrumentation requires 4 flute parts and there is only 1 flute in the ensemble, performances may not be possible.

Choral Music

Both in person learners and remote learners will have access to choral music class (grades 5-12) or general music class (grades K-4). At this time, in order to ensure that our students are in the safest environment possible, our music staff has agreed that **group singing will not take place during school**. Students may be asked to practice singing at home. We will be taking a music appreciation / general music approach to learning in such classes.

Please direct music questions to: michele.prokop@boardmanschools.com

IN PERSON 5-DAY-A- WEEK LEARNING OPTION

Q) Will there be switching of classes?

K-6 will have reduced switching of classrooms, but 7-12 will be changing classes on a more regular basis.

In grades 7-12 there will be hallway and stairwell traffic patterns/control that will be reinforced by signage, and staff supervision.

****When in hallways or when moving about the building, face coverings will be required.***

Q) Will class sizes be reduced?

Based on parent surveys, we predict that approximately 30% of our families will choose remote learning, thus reducing class sizes.

Q) If we choose in-person learning but our kids have a difficult time with wearing a mask, can we switch to remote learning or only at the 9 week mark?

For academic reasons, as well as logistical challenges, we strongly encourage families to commit to a learning model for the 9 weeks, and transition only when a bona fide emergency exists.

Q) How will social distancing be accomplished when possible?

Items have been removed from classrooms to support social distancing. When everyone follows social distancing guidelines we can maximize our physical distance. However, to expect 6 feet of social distancing at all times is NOT practical. The district is planning to purchase plexiglass barriers to assist in situations where the optimal 6 feet social distancing is not possible.

Are there still going to be the plexi glass trifold around the desks? If not each desk every other? My son will be a 4th grader.

Yes, plexiglass dividers are being ordered for all buildings, and depending on size of desks or tables, they will be installed as an extra layer of protection.

FACE COVERING POLICY

- **Face masks** will be mandatory for all students, unless there is an underlying medical condition or disability . (In some medical cases, face shields may be used)
- Age appropriate “mask breaks” will be granted by district personnel.
- Students **MUST** wear a face covering on all district-provided transportation and during the school day.
- Exceptions to the face mask policy will be taken on an individual basis.
- All Staff of Boardman Local Schools will be required to wear face coverings (masks/face shields). There can be flexibility in this requirement when staff are working alone or more than 6 feet from others.

Governor Dewine has just recently mandated masks be worn by students k-12.

Will face shields still be accepted?

Only under medical exemptions. (updated Aug. 30) All students, faculty and staff in all school buildings K-12 shall wear material facial coverings at all times when they are indoors, and on school buses....and outdoors if they cannot maintain 6 feet social distance. Ohio Department of Health is following federal guidance and prohibiting the schoolwide use of face shields as a substitute for facial coverings/masks. Such use of face shields does not comply with the [Director’s Order Requiring the Use of Facial Coverings in Child Education Settings](#).

What about kindergarten with face masks with IEP with disabilities, how's that going to work out?

We realize that some students may have medical or sensory needs that don't allow for the consistent wearing of masks. There will be measures put in place to facilitate this including the use of shields and the distancing of students. We are also looking into options for stand alone shields at desks.

Q) What about potential heat because of unairconditioned buildings?

That's one of the reasons the District delayed the start of school by two weeks; to get beyond the very hot days that would make it too uncomfortable with face coverings. Should extreme temperatures be forecasted in September, we may accommodate that by calling for an "Extreme Heat" day. Under a "Heat Day" certain buildings would be closed for in person learning, and students would instead learn remotely on that day.

Q) Does my child have to wear a face covering for the entire school day?

No. When social distancing cannot be maximized, facial coverings will be on. We will strive to find ways to provide breaks for students throughout the day. When social distancing can be maximized, facial coverings may be relaxed. For younger students, we will continue to explore ways to provide more breaks during the day.

Q) Will masks be provided by the district?

We are asking parents to provide masks for their children, but the district will have masks on hand, for students who may forget to bring one or lose theirs during the day.

CLEANING

Q) How will bathrooms be cleaned? Children will be touching doors, flushers, sinks, faucets, etc. How will they be sanitized?

Our custodial staff will focus on disinfecting all high touch surfaces and restrooms will be thoroughly cleaned daily. Children will be required to wear masks when they take restroom breaks and hand washing will be taught, encouraged, reminded and enforced.

Restroom protocol will be building specific. Many of our restrooms (depending on building) are structured so there is no door to enter, or doors may remain open without impinging on privacy. (stall doors, of course exist) We are trying to examine every detail, and ensure that students follow the best practices possible.

Q) Will students have easy access to clean their hands?

The district has ordered 410 automatic (touchless) sanitizer dispensers for all classrooms, as well as on all buses. Plans for mobile touchless sanitizing stations are also in place for high traffic areas (such as hallways, outside cafeterias, etc.)

Q) What supplies will be available in classrooms?

Every classroom will have a sanitizer station, that includes hand sanitizer, paper towels and cleaning supplies for desk cleaning.

Q) What else is being done to keep our schools clean?

High touch areas will get particular attention throughout the day, and hand sanitizer will be available for all students to use in classrooms and stationed throughout the school buildings in high traffic areas. The District will use electrostatic sprayers to clean targeted areas and items that are difficult to wipe individually.

GYM/ RECESS/SPECIALS

Q) Will there be a gym class?

Yes, but not traditional large group classes. There will be no changing to gym clothes at BCIS or BGJHS. Students will not be using locker rooms in those buildings.

Q) Will there be recess for elementary schools?

Yes, but it may be a reduced version of what students are used to because of social distancing rules.

Q) Will holiday breaks be eliminated/ or school extended because of the 2 week delay of the start of classes?

No, the calendar remains the same.

LUNCH AND CAFETERIA QUESTIONS

Q) How will lunch be handled at HS? Will they go to the cafeteria or remain in their classrooms?

Lunch at the High School will be served in the cafeteria. There will be no self service. Social distancing will be maximized and other spaces in the building may be utilized for spacing. Other details are still being worked out at the building level.

Q.) Will the child/children (remote learners) need to be present at meal pickup on Mondays?

No, but the parent/guardian must have the child's ID number or badge.

Q) If a student qualifies for free/reduced lunch, how will he/she receive a meal if opting for remote learning?

Boardman Schools will offer meals to all remote learners. An online system for parents to order meals has now been developed. Parents must pre-order meals by the Sunday prior at 3 PM. Pickup is Monday at BHS from 1-2.

It is important to note the lunch prices remain the same as last year: \$2.75 for K-8 and \$3.25 for 9-12. Those who qualify for free/reduced would still do so at free or reduced prices.

Q) Can children use lunch boxes and backpacks?

Yes. However, certain restrictions may apply, depending on building.

MEDICAL

Q) Will there be temperature checks for students when they enter the building each morning?

No. Parents are responsible for temperature checks and a health assessment before they send their child to school in the morning.

Q) Why is it up to the parents to check for temperatures and screen for illness?

The CDC recommends that schools do not perform district-wide screening of students. This should be done daily by the parent or caregiver. We also have a concern that when a student shows up at a school door with a high temperature then it is too late. That student has already potentially created close contacts and exposed staff and students.

Q) What happens if a child falls ill during the school day?

If your student is exhibiting any signs of illness, it is best to keep him/her home and if well enough, they may make up assignments remotely. If a student exhibits signs of illness or a temperature above 100F *during* the school day, the student will be sent to the nurse and must return home. Parents should plan for multiple, pre-arranged

methods of getting a student home from school should they become ill or exhibit symptoms.

The Following information is guidance from the Mahoning County Board of Health:

CONFIRMED CASES IN DISTRICT

Q) How should we handle students or staff if someone in their immediate family has a confirmed case of Covid-19?

That person would be identified through case contact tracing and be made to quarantine for 14 days. No further action would need to be taken at school-except for a plan for educating the child while out of school.

Q) If there is a confirmed case and contact tracing shows several individuals meet the definition of contact (6' or less for 15 min or more - currently with or without a mask), what are your recommendations for the individuals who came in contact with the affected person?

Through contact tracing, the Health Dept. will identify close contacts of the confirmed case. They will work with the schools to see who would have met this criteria in the school setting. Whomever was identified will be expected to quarantine for 14 days. No further action would need to be taken at school-except for a plan for educating the child/children while out.

Q) Will the Health Dept. notify the superintendent if an employee or student is positive for coronavirus?

The Health Dept. will identify the contact at each school building that has been designated. This can be the principal, school administrator or school nurse.

Q) Once a case is confirmed, is the district responsible for contact tracing?

The Health Dept. will work with the school to perform contact tracing in the school. This will be a case by case basis because depending on the grade of the child and/or teacher it will determine the number of contacts.

Q) If one student gets sick do we send home the siblings?

Yes, if a student is sent home with probable COVID symptoms, siblings should be sent home to assist with contact tracing. Once confirmed, siblings would be on 14 day

quarantine. If they have probable COVID symptoms, they need to stay home until they are cleared by a physician.

Q) If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, what happens?

We will collaborate with the Mahoning County Health Department and are required to report known positive test results to that entity. We will follow the Mahoning County Health Department's guidelines for contact tracing, notify parents of close contacts of the confirmed case immediately, and, per requirements of Governor Dewine's order to publicly report such cases within 48 hours.

Q) How will the Boardman Local School District communicate if a teacher or student tests positive for COVID-19?

The district would communicate confirmed cases of Covid by building and grade level, However specific health information and identifying details will not be shared in accordance with HIPPA and FERPA guidelines.

ORIENTATION

Q) Will there be new student orientation at BHS?

Boardman High School: Freshmen Orientation will be Thursday, September 10. It will be staggered into four 1-hour sessions. Emergency Forms, schedule pickup and brief tours and locker opening practice will take place.

All Remote Learners at the High School are also encouraged to attend an in person orientation on Friday, September 11. You will bring emergency medical form, pick up your class schedule and meet your BHS teachers.

Q) Will there be orientation for 4th grade students?

BCIS teachers will be posting virtual open house videos on the school district website. The videos will be available beginning on September 4.

Also, 4th graders who would like to drop off school supplies early, can do so on September 10, from 2-3 pm, or 6-7 pm.

Q) Will BGJHS have orientation/open house?

All 7th and 8th grade students can sign up for a brief Open House Tour of the building to familiarize themselves with BGJHS and their schedules. (signups for Aug. 31-Sept. 3 from 8 AM until 2 PM)

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE IS AUGUST 31 -- start time is 4:15-5:10 (general information)
Each teacher has a 10 minute zoom to give an overview of class/expectations.

Teachers' names and times are listed on the website/BGJHS page/ Virtual Open House
Click on the teacher's name, and use the code to access the zoom.

BGJHS Remote Learners can sign up for a 30 minute in person visit, to have a brief introduction with your teachers and to pick up materials needed. Signups on the website for visits (Sept. 8- Sept. 11/ 8 am until 2 pm)

TRANSPORTATION

Q) When will bus lists/times be available?

Bus lists will be posted at the main doors of each building by September 2. Some buildings have sent letters with bus numbers. Please note that times listed are approximate, and will fluctuate for the first few weeks of school.

- When possible, students from the same household should sit together
- Students will have assigned seats by the bus driver
- Cloth Face coverings will be mandatory (over nose, snug around cheeks and chin)
- No more than two students to a seat
- Buses will be sanitized regularly

Q) Will there be a form if your child does not want to ride the bus this year?

A busing form is being developed now and will be available shortly to be distributed to parents as well as posted to the website

Q) How can the driver control the kids keeping masks on and facing forward?

Bus rules for facing forward and masks will be clearly communicated to students, and enforced by bus drivers. We urge parents to stress to their children to follow the safety guidelines at all times, including during bus rides. Masks are mandatory while riding the bus.

Q) What is the drop off/pick off protocol for West Blvd going to be? In the past they have actively discouraged you from drop off/pick up.

West is currently undergoing construction on a new access area/roadway to create a more organized and systematic dropoff that will not interfere with bus traffic in the front lot. Parent transportation will not be discouraged.

