

Good afternoon student and families,

I hope this finds you well. I wanted to write and touch base concerning the beginning of our year as I know there are many questions surrounding Wednesday night's board approval of a remote start to the year for Brown County High School.

First, thank you for the feedback we have received. I am encouraged by the questions and support. I know that it is not the way that we envisioned our 2020-2021 school year starting. I realize that there are many people with differing opinions on the return plan and I respect those opinions. We see the merit in all points that have been communicated to us and we value the diversity of views.

The following are key points moving ahead to the start of the year...

- Next week we will put out a schedule for the week of August 10th that designates the times by grade level and last name (alphabetically) that students can come to school to pick up a schedule, device, supplies/materials, and also be given specific directions on accessing Google Classroom, TEAMS/Zoom, school email, etc. We will call this Orientation Week. We heard from parents last spring that there was a need for this type of communication and we are working to ensure that students (and parents) are familiar with these platforms and the modes of communication and learning that will be utilized in remote learning. Masks and social distancing will be required upon entry during this orientation process.
- Students will receive a school-issued device. Please be certain to consent to both the SAL (Student-Assigned Laptop Expectations) and the AUP (Acceptable Usage Policy for Student Network and Internet Access) when registering online. If you are in need of internet access, please call the high school office at 773-7710 as soon as possible and we will work with you to problem-solve those issues. **Online registration will be open next week, beginning Aug. 4th.**
- Students will be attending remotely each day utilizing an alternating block schedule. A-Day will consist of four class periods (1-4) and B-Day will consist of four periods (a homeroom and 3 periods (5-8). Homeroom time will be used for a check-in with teachers concerning coursework. A finalized schedule of classes will be given to students when they come in for orientation, but please know that students' school day will be 300 minutes (5 clock hours) which builds in some flexibility for students to have the opportunity to meet virtually with teachers (in-person as needed by appointment) during afternoon hours after classes are complete.
- Students will begin their morning **at 8:00 a.m.** and will be expected to log-on for instruction each period. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each period.
- Assessments will be given in each class and grades will be taken. Expectations will look much different than they did last spring.
- **Beginning school in this manner does not equate a full semester of remote learning; instead, this plan remains the best option for a hybrid approach moving forward. The plan is to return to in-person learning as soon as possible as safety and health protocols allow.**
- For students who are planning to commit to a full semester of third party remote learning, please read the following guidelines carefully:
 - Instruction will be delivered through a third-party provider (i.e. Illinois Virtual School)
 - **It will require a commitment of a full semester for high school students**
 - The district will pay for five courses per semester per student (student credits will be adjusted for graduation and class rank)

- Students must pass each course with a grade of D or better to count as completion of that coursework for the 2020-2021 designated term. Students not passing courses will not move to the next grade the following school year
- Please call with questions at 217-773-7710 or email at pollee.craven@bchornets.com.

We look forward to seeing you during the week of August 10th! Thank you for your willingness to work with your teachers and principal. We appreciate you! Students – thank you for the emails! Keep them coming as you think about your schedule and other questions that arise as we prepare for the coming year!