

Brazos I.S.D.

"Excellence in Education Since 1974"

Brian Thompson
Superintendent
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Wallis, TX 77485

BRAZOS ISD OPENING 2020-2021

July 23, 2020

*****Subject to change based on direction from the State of Texas, Texas Education Agency, and local health authorities.*****

Brazos ISD is dedicated to offering a quality education for each student within our district. Updates from local, state and federal agencies are closely monitored to ensure parents have a choice in educational opportunities for their students.

Governor Abbott has directed school districts to re-open for in-person instruction this fall, as well as offer parents the option for virtual instruction. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) further mandated that in-person instruction follows a Monday through Friday schedule. The Brazos Independent School District will offer in-person learning with multiple safety protocols and COVID-19 prevention measures. Both options will follow the Board adopted 2020-2021 instructional year calendar which may be found at www.brazosisd.net under Quicklinks.

The TEA definitions for synchronous instruction and asynchronous instruction:

Remote Synchronous Instruction: *Two-way audio and video, real-time/live, virtual instruction between teachers and students when students are not on campus. In this method, the required amount of instructional time is scheduled each day, and funding is generated when attendance is recorded daily at a locally selected snapshot time. Synchronous instruction is provided through a computer or other electronic device or over the phone. The instructional method must address the required curriculum, per TEC, 28.002*

Remote Asynchronous Instruction: *Instruction that does not require having the instructor and student engaged at the same time. In this method, students learn from instruction that is not necessarily being delivered in-person or in real time. This type of instruction may include various forms of digital and online learning, such as prerecorded video lessons or game-based learning tasks that students complete on their own, and pre-assigned work and formative assessments made available to students on paper. The instructional method must address the required curriculum, per TEC, 28.002*

All virtual classes are taught by a Brazos ISD certified teacher and follow the Brazos ISD curriculum which encompasses the TEKS and Texas graduation requirements. Virtual classes are taught using Google Classroom and online digital curriculum resources. Resources and instructional materials will be made available to students, when needed. Please contact your child's teacher or campus administrator.

Please note: Virtual instruction may not be able to support some instructional programs and course offerings that would otherwise be available to enhance student experiences such as certain Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses.

- **Option 1: On Campus In-Person Instruction**

This is the traditional school environment and format that students are most familiar with, when thinking of school. Brazos ISD plans to open school on August 19, 2020.

- **Option 2: Virtual Instruction Learning Model**

This instructional framework encompasses a schedule in which students are able to engage in two-way, real-time, live instruction with teachers delivered through technology devices (also known as synchronous instruction). Students can communicate and request support from teachers when needed, and teachers will respond within a 24 hour time frame. Students engage with their academic material on a daily basis and the instructional schedule meets the minimum number of required daily minutes per the TEA. Daily attendance is taken. Conference times will be posted on teacher web pages with all of his/her contact information.

The other instructional framework will be where students get on their device and are taught through recorded instruction, web-based instruction, and the use of Google Classroom (also known as asynchronous instruction). Students (and parents) can communicate and request support from teachers. Students engage with their academic material on a daily basis and the remote learning instructional schedule will meet the minimum number of required daily minutes per TEA for each grade level.

For grades 9-12 and 8th grade algebra, the only remote instruction that will be allowed is the synchronous model. All virtual exams will be monitored through video testing protocol established by the district.

A student or interdistrict transfer student who is voluntarily participating in an all-remote instructional method, whether synchronous or asynchronous, shall not be permitted to participate in any extracurricular activity, practice, or performance for the grading period in which the student is receiving all-remote instruction.

For Pre-K-2nd grade, we will provide asynchronous learning for the remote learners, which is required by Texas Education Agency.

For grades 3-8, we will allow synchronous and asynchronous remote learning. The one exception is algebra in 8th grade.

Some secondary courses offered require students to fulfill in-person course requirements in accordance with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), for example, welding or floral design.

Virtual Instruction Commitment

Students who elect to begin the school year enrolled in virtual instruction may elect to return to in-person instruction at the end of a six-weeks grading period. **Virtual instruction enrolled students are not allowed to return to in-person instruction prior to the close of a grading period.**

It is required that virtually enrolled students have a dedicated technology device and broadband internet access.

Please inform the Brazos ISD Campus Administration if you chose to use the virtual instruction model to begin the 2020-2021 school year, by August 7, 2020.

Special Programs

If your child receives special services i.e. special education, 504, ESL, gifted and talented, dyslexia, and you have questions, please direct them to the following personnel.

Lana Johnston
Special Education Director
ljohnston@brazosisd.net

979-478-6551

Teresa Ressler
Special Programs Coordinator
tressler@brazosisd.net

979-478-6551

Attendance

Option A: In-Person (On-Campus) **

Traditional on-campus attendance procedures continue for the 2020-2021 school year.

Option B: Virtual Instruction **

Just as with traditional on-campus attendance procedures, official attendance is taken during scheduled virtual classes. A student is considered absent if the student does not have documented engagement in Google Classroom and/or daily contact with the teacher, and/or documentation of completion of daily assignments.

****Alternative instruction will be provided to students who have been quarantined, which will require synchronous or asynchronous instruction and participation.**

Bell Schedules (In-Person & Virtual)

High School: 7:55 a.m. – 3:46 p.m.

Elementary: 7:55 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Junior High: 7:55 a.m. – 3:46 p.m.

For individual class times, please reference your child's schedule and teacher webpages.

Grading (In-Person & Virtual)

Students enrolled in virtual instruction follow the same grading guidelines as in-person instruction. Teachers receive support and guidance on effective grading practices to ensure that grading guidelines are followed in both instructional models.

There are no changes to the Brazos ISD grading guidelines for the 2020-2021 school year. Please reference the campus appropriate handbook and teacher syllabus for grading explanations.

High school students may elect to exempt a final exam if all the requirements are met in regards to attendance, semester average, and behavior for the 2020-2021 school year. Please see the BHS Student Handbook for the criteria.

Social and Emotional Supports (In-Person & Virtual)

- Counselors and the LSSP are available to support students and families in-person and in the virtual environment, providing resources and strategies to support students' social and emotional well-being. Trained individuals are well versed in how to report potential behavior threats, in addition to providing trauma informed practices to support students.

General Information

Return to School Phase 1 Campus Protocols

Schools are required to comply with the Governor's executive order regarding the wearing of masks. In addition to the Governor's executive order, TEA has provided school districts with guidance that can require the use of masks or face shields for adults or students for whom it is developmentally appropriate. To limit outside exposure for staff and students, the following Brazos ISD Return to School "Phase 1" campus protocols are in effect until further notice. Phase 1 protocols will be reviewed and evaluated often and may be updated as needed. We appreciate your support for the Return to School Phase 1 Safety Protocols to ensure campus staff have the flexibility to distance students in common areas.

- Facial coverings required for all district staff
- Facial coverings required for students grades 4 through 12 while on campus
- Facial coverings encouraged for students Pre-K through 3 while on campus
- Facial coverings are required for all students Pre-K through 12 while using district transportation
- Instructional day temperature checks will be required when students arrive on campus.
- No outside food or gift deliveries will be accepted
- As a safety precaution, all built in water fountains within and around the building will be turned off. Students are asked to bring their own shatterproof, labeled, water bottle to carry with them during the school day. The water containers will be filled by the staff at appropriate times throughout the day.
- Visitors, non-essential to school operations, will not be given access to the campus including on the first day of school and during scheduled meal times
- Parents/volunteers required to conduct campus visits by phone, virtual or by pre-scheduled appointment
- No student field trips during the instructional day
- No large group gatherings or events will be held during the instructional day.

Please Note: Return to School procedures and protocols are subject to change as updated guidance is provided by the TEA, governing authorities and county health officials.

COVID-19 Protocols

TEA's comprehensive guidelines for a safe return to in-person instruction for the 2020-2021 school year states: *“There will almost certainly be situations that necessitate temporary school closure due to positive COVID-19 cases in schools. Parents, educators, and school administrators should be prepared for this in the event that it occurs, while actively working to prevent it through prevention and mitigation practices”*.

- **Alerts & Notifications**

Brazos ISD has a standard response in place in the event of a confirmed COVID-19 among students and staff at a specific campus. In the event your student's campus is impacted, parents and staff at the impacted campus receive a notification with an update no later than 24 hours after the COVID-19 case is reported.

- **Intermittent School to Home**

Should there be a need to temporarily close a class or school due to COVID-19, teachers will instruct virtual classes via Google Classroom or alternative methods pending the return to class/campus. Home internet and device access are required for virtual learning. Also, extracurricular and student programs will be temporarily unavailable during a campus closure. As the start of the school year approaches and anticipated additional guidance from state, local authorities and the TEA is provided, Brazos ISD is prepared to release additional COVID-19 health and safety protocol information to our families.

Close Contact

This document refers to “close contact” with an individual is lab-confirmed to have Covid-19, as defined by the Texas Education Agency.

For Clarity, close contact is defined as:

“Being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on while not wearing a mask or face shield) ; or being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes, while not wearing a mask or face shield; If either occurred at any time in the last 14 days at the same time, the infected individual was infectious. Individuals are presumed infectious at least two days prior to symptom onset or, in case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab confirmed with Covid-19, two days prior to the confirming lab test,”

Screening will occur on a regular basis for staff and students. An individual presenting symptom will be isolated, evaluated, and sent home.

Individuals Present Symptoms at School/Work:

When a student has displayed symptoms of Covid-19, a clinical assessment will be administered to determine if and when a student needs to be sent home. A student who reports feeling feverish will have their temperature taken.

Students who are ill will be separated from their peers and should be picked up no later than 1 hour from the time the campus contacted the student's parent/guardian.

Other students will be removed from the classroom and taken to an alternate location on campus (e.g. go on a walk outside, move to a different classroom, etc.) so that the classroom can be disinfected.

Staff members displaying Covid-19 symptoms will follow district protocols including isolation from students and other staff members.

Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, as well as compliant with legal confidentiality requirements, the District will notify the local health department, all teachers, staff, and families of all the students, who were affected or in contact, via our school messenger.

Individuals returning to school/work after Positive Report:

Any individual who is either:

- *Lab confirmed to have Covid-19, or
- *Experiencing the symptoms of Covid-19

This individual must stay at home throughout the infection period and cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine the conditions for campus re-entry.

In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with Covid-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:

- 1) At least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
- 2) The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath);
and
- 3) At least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be Covid-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for Covid-19, such individual is assumed to have Covid-19. This individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.

If the individual has symptoms that could be Covid-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either:

- 1) Obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis, **or**
- 2) Receive two separate confirmations at least 24 hours apart that they are free of Covid-19 via acute infection tests at an approved Covid-19 testing location found at <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>.

Any individual who returns after a Covid-19 positive test must be cleared through the administrative office prior to the return to campus.

Arrival/Dismissal/Transitioning:

Arrival:

- Entry points will be established by the administration.
- Daily health self-evaluation and use of hand sanitizer upon entry.
- Students may report straight to classrooms whenever possible, depending on supervision.
- All areas of the building (gym, cafeteria, large classrooms, common areas, etc.) may be utilized to limit the size of student groupings.

Dismissal:

- Exit points will be established by administration.
- Campuses will implement staggered release procedures when possible.
- Students will be released straight from their classrooms whenever possible.

Transitioning:

- The transitioning of students will be limited during the school day.
- Students in some grades will be self-contained with one teacher.
- Whenever possible, teachers will rotate into classrooms to limit student transitioning.
- Considerations will be made at all levels based on student needs.

Cafeterias & Food Service

To minimize possible outside exposure and to allow for adequate physical distancing for students during meal times, Return to School Phase 1 protocols include no food/gift deliveries will be accepted, and visitors non-essential to school operations will not be allowed on campuses or in cafeterias. Phase 1 protocols will remain in effect until further notice.

Nutrition & Food Service Protocols

- Brazos ISD Nutrition & Food Service staff use face shields, facial coverings and gloves when performing job responsibilities and are trained to practice health and hygiene regulations
- Brazos ISD cafeterias are cleaned and disinfected daily
- Brazos ISD cafeterias, serving and eating areas are cleaned between uses
- Signage is located in cafeterias to reinforce social distancing
- 'To Go Meals' will be available for **virtual learners** at the Brazos Middle School campus, by the cafeteria, at the following times:
 - Breakfast: 8:00-8:30 a.m.
 - Lunch: 12:40-1:10 p.m.

Meal Service

- Students must follow social distancing signage displayed on the floor.
- Students may be directed to eat in various locations throughout the building, including classrooms, to maximize social distancing
- Parents are encouraged to use the Lunch Money Now website app to provide student meal money instead of sending cash to your child's campus. The Lunch Money Now website can be found at www.brazosisd.net under Quicklinks.

Campus & Classroom Protocols

For the health and safety of all students and staff – parents are required to assist their children with a daily self-screening for COVID-19 symptoms and fever before arriving to school or boarding school transportation.

Per TEA *“In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, consider the following questions: Have they recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for them?”*

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to **100.0 degrees Fahrenheit**
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Shaking
- Exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea

Health and Hygiene Practice:

Masks/ Face Shields

Schools are required to comply with the Governor’s executive order regarding the wearing of masks. In addition to the Governor’s executive order, TEA has provided school districts with guidance that can require the use of masks or face shields for adults or students for whom it is developmentally appropriate. Brazos ISD’s Return to School Phase 1 protocols require the following in regards to the wearing of face masks. These protocols will remain in effect until further notice.

- Facial coverings required for all district staff
- Facial coverings required for students grades 4 through 12
- Facial coverings encouraged for students Pre-K through 3
- Facial coverings are required for all students Pre-K through 12 while using district transportation

Employee Health Protocols

- All staff are required to complete a daily self-screening for symptoms prior to arriving to work
- All staff must practice appropriate hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and social distancing
- All staff are required to wear a facial covering while in classrooms, common spaces, and when social distancing cannot occur
- All staff are expected to clean and sanitize work space before and after use

Student Health Protocols

- All students are required to complete a daily self-screening for symptoms prior to arriving to school or boarding school transportation
- All students are provided guidance on proper hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and social distancing
- All students, grades 4th through 12th, are required to wear a facial covering while in classrooms, common spaces, and when social distancing cannot occur
- All students, grades Pre-K through 3rd, are highly recommended to wear a facial covering while in classrooms, common spaces and when social distancing cannot occur
- All facial coverings should cover the nose and mouth
- All students must be up-to-date with state required immunization compliance
- All students are provided sanitizing wipes to clean work space before classroom instruction begins and ends
- All students are encouraged to use hand sanitizer before classroom instruction begins and ends
- All students are seated with as much separation as feasible during the instructional day

Cleaning Practices

- Campuses are cleaned throughout the instructional day with an emphasis on cleaning high traffic and multiple touch areas, including door handles, restrooms, large group transition areas, cafeteria between meals
- Hand sanitizer stations are located in multiple areas throughout the campus
- Transportation personnel disinfect school buses between runs
- Brazos ISD utilizes a hydrostatic misting device that is FDA approved and will kill the Covid-19 virus

Transportation

Per TEA's COVID-19 guidance regarding transportation, Brazos ISD is implementing enhanced cleaning and disinfecting procedures between each bus trip. [View the revised 2020-2021 bell schedule.](#) Bus transportation is provided for eligible riders and every effort is made to ensure students are able to socially distance. In addition, TEA encourages families to drop students off, carpool, or walk with their student to school to reduce possible virus exposure on a bus.

- All transportation staff required to wear facial coverings
- All students, grades pre-K through 12, required to wear facial coverings upon boarding
- In most cases, bus seating is assigned, with no more than two (2) students per seat
- Students and staff required to use provided hand sanitizer upon boarding the bus
- Bus windows will remain open to allow for additional ventilation and air flow
- Buses will be thoroughly cleaned after each bus trip, focusing on high-touch surfaces such as bus seats, steering wheels, knobs, and door handles

Mandatory Covid-19 Closure

If a mandatory Covid closure is required, virtual instruction in the 2020-2021 school year in Brazos ISD will look vastly different from virtual instruction during the Spring 2020 semester closure. This may be remote synchronous, remote asynchronous or a combination hybrid model. It will take dedication from staff, students and support from parents/guardians.

In closing, we hope this information answers your questions, as it is difficult to plan precisely for the unknown. We sincerely appreciate the patience and grace you have extended to us as we work through these unprecedented times. Thank you for working with us to benefit the students of Brazos ISD.

Please have this serve as a reminder that if you anticipate keeping your child(ren) at home and enrolling in our virtual instruction, and you have not informed the district at registration time, please contact your child's campus by August 7, 2020 for our planning purposes.

Brazos ISD 2020-2021



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School Holidays

Labor Day.....Sept 07
 Fort Bend County Fair*.....Sept 25
 Austin County Fair.....Oct. 8*-9
 Thanksgiving.....Nov. 23-27
 Christmas.....Dec. 21-Jan 5
 MLK Day (Bad Weather Day).....Jan 18
 President's Day.....Feb 15
 Spring Break.....Mar 8-12
 Easter.....April 2
 Holiday (Bad Weather Day).....May 21
 Memorial Day.....May 31
 *Teacher Comp Days
 ** Jan 5-Teacher Work Day

First Day of School.....August 19
 Last Day of School.....May 27
 Graduation.....May 28

New Teacher Orientation 8/4
Teacher In-service Days 8/5-8/13; 8/17; 2/15
Teacher Workdays 8/14; 8/18; 12/18; 1/5; 5/28
STAAR EOC TESTING WINDOWS- Date determined by test subject and paper or line
Student Holiday, Teacher Comp Day 9/25/10/08
School Holiday
Bad Weather Days 1/18;5/21

Early Release Days:

BES, BMS, PHAS 12/17; 5/26; 5/27
 BHS: 12/15; 12/16; 2/17; 5/25; 5/26; 5/27

Reporting Periods

1 st 6 Weeks: 8/19-9/18	4 th 6 Weeks: 1/6-2/12
2 nd 6 Weeks: 9/21-10/30	5 th 6 Weeks: 2/16-4/1
3 rd 6 Weeks: 11/2-12/17	6 th 6 Weeks: 4/5-5/27

Days/Minutes

Students: 171 days
 Teachers: 187 days

Minutes

BES: 79,020
 BMS: 80,028
 BHS: 79,515
 PHAS 69,600