

Dear BPS Families,

As we continue to plan for a fall return, **we are soliciting RSVPs into our BPS Virtual Academy.** Our BPS Virtual Academy would be an option for families to select, if preferred to any in-person return for all BPS students, and would provide online-only instruction employing BPS staff to the fullest extent possible while also incorporating Michigan Virtual Academy courses for secondary students when necessary. While an in-person teaching model remains our goal for every child, as it provides important teacher-student and peer contact, the health and safety of our students, staff and families during this health pandemic is our focus. Information on the BPS Virtual Academy is listed at the bottom of this email.

The development of full in-person and partial-return hybrid models of instruction for the fall continues through our three planning committees under [Michigan Safe Start Plan](#) Phases 4 and 5. BPS leadership will engage with our parent focus groups for a second time later this month to seek feedback on those initial plans. While we are working through the lens of a safe full return this fall, we know we may be restricted to a hybrid model. We will adhere to key health and safety protocols required by our state in the [MI Safe Schools Return to School Roadmap](#), and consider their additional recommendations as well as recommendations from the CDC, [Michigan Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics](#) and the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#).

Currently, our area is under Phase 4 of the Michigan Safe Start Plan. Under Phase 5, health and safety restrictions are greatly reduced as contact tracing by the health department becomes more viable. The state may also regress and move back to Phase 3 by this fall, which would require schools to remain closed and employ an online-only learning model. **All of our plans to reopen school this fall are subject to changes in guidance and requirements from our state and health agencies, which continue to update and change weekly.** We will continue to keep our families informed as we have more information to share.

Sincerely,

**BPS Central Leadership Team**

---

### **BPS Virtual Academy Information**

#### *How it Differs from the 2019-20 Continuity of Learning Online Instruction Plan*

- Student attendance will be taken for those attending the BPS Virtual Academy.
- Grades will be given for courses taken through the BPS Virtual Academy.
- Live instruction will be incorporated when led by BPS teachers, with playback and pre-recorded options for flexibility in learning.
- BPS Virtual Academy classes will adhere to the curriculum standards necessary for BPS graduation requirements and NCAA eligibility.

#### *How to enroll*

- **For planning purposes, families must sign up to participate by July 28, 2020 to reserve a slot.** BPS may offer an additional enrollment period closer to the beginning of the school year, based on availability.
- Students must be enrolled within Birmingham Public Schools to reserve their spot in the BPS Virtual Academy.

- Families **must commit to remaining in the program through the first trimester** of the 2020-21 school year, which ends Tuesday, Nov. 24. The BPS Virtual Academy will be in place for the duration of the 2020-21 school year.
- Families can sign up at [https://birminghampublic.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9uCn20ILK8It4RT](https://birminghampublic.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9uCn20ILK8It4RT)