

## **February Town Hall Questions**

1. Is it possible to do a sneak a peek before students return on March 1? Maybe even virtually, if necessary.
  - An in-person “Sneak-A-Peak” cannot be scheduled for any groups. Every decision made for re-entry has been based on providing students with an experience as similar to pre-COVID as possible to give them a safe and known environment. Pictures were embedded this evening and will be shared with students through meetings with myself and school counselors. Teachers are approaching the re-entry in the same manner we approach the opening of school in the fall. Students in all grades will be given staggered tours so they are familiar with the new signage and COVID necessities.
  
2. When students return for hybrid instruction, will they remain with their current homeroom teacher AND reading/math groups or will they be re-grouped?
  - At this time there is no reason students cannot remain with their homeroom teacher. Small groups may be re-grouped within their current class depending on the final schedule once it is approved.
  
3. Do teachers share best practices for virtual teaching with each other? It feels very inconsistent between teachers.
  - Like your children no two teachers are alike. Best practices for instruction are shared through BCPS and between each other and the administration. The teachers teach to their strengths and the need of the students in their classroom.
  
4. Can we return our children to virtual learning if the hybrid model is not good for them?
  - Absolutely, simply inform the administration of your decision to return to virtual instruction at any time.
  
5. What materials will be needed from students when returning to school. Will supply lists be sent out when cohort information is sent out?
  - We are working on a materials list and will share it as soon as it is approved. Our focus is having the students transport as little as possible.
  
6. Morning arrival to school - will there be staggered arrival times? or what will the process be and how long will the temperature check and arrival process take? I am wondering how to manage a long wait in line at school drop off with also managing other young children and work.
  - Arrival locations have been changed for a few grade levels. We cannot stagger arrival times and adhere to MSDE requirements for length of school day. The

arrival process will be shared with parents prior to March 1<sup>st</sup>. Temperature checks will not be conducted at school. Those parents who have identified hybrid will complete a COVID Health Screening & Emergency Contact Form committing to check each student prior to entering a bus or leaving for school.

7. Why must there be so many assignments (which are basically homework) for the specials? There was a lot of pushing from the specials teachers to get in missing work at the end of the semester and it stressed my kid out and has killed his love for them (rather than helping him "learn" more in his specials). I like the idea of special assignments for kids who are motivated and want more but expecting kids to spend more time on a screen and submit work for specials after the class time is proving to be a challenge for our household. The volume of assignments is killing all the joy my kid used to get out of his specials.
  - MSDE requires all students participate in special areas. The expectation is that special areas adhere to the same virtual lesson plan structure as all other contents. In the virtual environment this means more work at home than we were used to pre-COVID. Please reach out to the special areas' teachers with any questions or concerns.
  
8. What can we do to help the school prepare to reopen? What supplies can we donate?
  - I am communicating with Ms. Uehlinger about the items the school needs help with. The PTA will be communicating.
  
9. I understand how much planning the hybrid instruction involves on all sides. Thank you for this work!! While hybrid is exciting and what I have chosen for my children, I'm concerned about scheduling since my Kindergartner is currently in a learning pod. For us working parents in the pod to continue in a hybrid, we will need to have our 3 pod Kindergartners in the same cohort. I understand you don't want to make accommodations for everyone but we don't know how we can go to work if my child will be home 3 days a week (because the pod won't accommodate different cohorts).
  - Cohort assignments are made by BCPS not at the school level. Accommodations for learning mods cannot be made.
  
10. How quickly can you get us the cohort assignments? It would be very useful to have ASAP for childcare/work planning.
  - Cohort assignments for K-2 are being released this Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. Cohort assignments for grades 3-5 are being released no later than next Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>.

11. Will all teachers be vaccinated before start of school, and if not, will they be allowed back?
- No, not all teachers will be vaccinated for the return. The latest guidance from the CDC suggests that it is not necessary for opening of schools. BCPS is working in conjunction with the county health department to get as many staff members who would like to be vaccinated the option to do so as quickly as possible. BCPS is suggesting that all staff register with the state sites to be vaccinated at any location that has an opening for vaccination. With the mitigation protocols in place in schools, wearing masks, and staying 6 feet apart, schools can open safely without all staff being vaccinated.
12. When will we return to having every class 5 days a week?
- The BCPS re-opening plan has not been revised to indicate when we will return to having every class 5 days a week. I do not have a date at this time.
13. How are teachers realistically going to teach students in person and online simultaneously? What practical steps are being taken to help teachers handle that increased load?
- BCPS and Stoneleigh as doing everything we can to help teachers handle the increase workload. Technology equipment has been ordered although it is back ordered at this time to assist in managing the two different learning environments. Teachers participated in professional learning throughout the school year and just this week on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 specific to High Quality Hybrid Learning Environments. As a school we have been meeting to share ideas and call upon those from other areas who have been teaching in the hybrid environment in preparation. We have many great ideas already.
  - It will be important for families to understand as students and teachers go back it mirrors the beginning of the school year with procedures and protocols having to be taught. Please give everyone grace and space. None of us have ever learned or taught in a hybrid environment. It will be a learning curve for all of us.
14. What are the plans for asymptomatic testing for BCPS students and staff? In the first week of re-opening Johns Hopkins (Jan 2021), HUNDREDS of people tested positive for COVID through asymptomatic testing. If there is no such plan, how can we best advocate for it? Is there quarantine protocol for people that have traveled out of state recently? Out of the country?
- Protocols for asymptomatic testing for BCPS students and staff are being finalized at this time. Ms. Stelmack will be receiving the final protocols next week. Contact tracing of individuals will be done by Ms. Stelmack, School Nurse, and we will be following state and county guidelines.

15. How will Stoneleigh quickly and transparently community with the Stoneleigh community regarding quarantines, exposures, and positive results?
- Protocols for quickly and transparently sharing information with the Stoneleigh community regarding quarantines, exposures, and positive results are being finalized. Ms. Stelmack will be receiving the final protocols next week.
16. Will BCPS attempt to do standardized testing of students (MCAP and so forth) this year?
- MSDE has stated all students in Maryland will be participating in the state mandated testing. At the elementary level, that includes ACCESS ESOL testing, 5<sup>th</sup> grade MISA testing, and 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade MCAP for reading and mathematics. I do not have any further details at this time.
17. Once the weather improves, are you considering allowing additional time for recess and physical Ed or any other class to be held outdoors? Has there been any discussion on creating an outdoor classroom?
- To adhere to the MSDE and BCPS requirements recess will remain 20 minutes in the schoolhouse and special areas will be 50 minutes each. Classes being held outside can occur with adherence to the COVID protocols, appropriateness of learning materials, and weather.
  - There was discussion previously this year with the PTA about an outdoor classroom, but I am not sure where that is currently.
18. How will the teachers be able to teach in person while giving the kids that are virtually learning the level of attention they are getting now when everyone is virtual?
- Technology equipment has been ordered although it is back ordered at this time to assist in managing the two different learning environments. Teachers participated in professional learning throughout the school year and just this week on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 specific to High Quality Hybrid Learning Environments. As a school we have been meeting to share ideas and call upon those from other districts who have been teaching in the hybrid environment already in preparation. We have many great ideas already.
  - It will be important for families to understand as students and teachers enter the hybrid go back it mirrors the beginning of the school year with procedures and protocols having to be taught. Everyone will be learning a new instructional environment and instructional practices which have never had to be imposed before. Please give everyone grace and space.