

Blackwater Community School 2020-2021 Reopening Plan



Virtual Learning starts Wednesday, July 22

{Revised Copy-approved by BOT on January 12, 2021

Purpose

Our reopening plan is guided by keeping in mind the health, safety, and welfare of each member of our community school, as well as their family members. The reopening plan for Blackwater Community School/Akimel O’otham Pee Posh Charter School (herein after “BWCS”) will address the following scenarios:

- ~~Scenario 1-all students will return to campus for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. Opening day for students is August 17, 2020 (pending board approval)~~
- Scenario 2-blended learning will include some students returning to school on site, and some students enrolling and continuing their learning remotely.
- **Scenario 3- all students will be distance learning effective July 22nd until further notice**
- Scenario 4-all students will return to campus, and the school will plan for additional intermittent or long term periods of required remote learning.

All scenarios will abide by the guidance and recommendations from the State of Arizona Education Department, the Center for Disease Control, and local authorities.

Scenario 3: Virtual Learning Plan

Detailed plans for virtual learning are below:

<p>Attendance tracking procedures for all students attending remotely.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers will take attendance on NASIS daily based on direct contact between teacher and student via WebEx, Google Meet, or by phone.
<p>Detailed expectations of teachers and other staff working virtually and commitments on delivery of employee support services including, but not limited to, human resource policies and support for employees, professional development opportunities and regular communication from the administration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeroom Teachers are expected to provide 45 minutes of direct instruction per subject in ELA and Math daily followed by breakout small group instruction in different virtual rooms. • Weekly video conference meetings with grade level teachers, special education teachers, paraprofessionals, administration and Human Resource Manager • Leadership team on site and on call Monday- Friday 7:30-3:30 to support employees • See 2020/2021 Professional Development calendar • Lesson plans must be uploaded to Google Classroom and submitted to the administration every Friday by 3:30pm (Whole Group Instruction: Anticipatory Set, Direct Explicit instruction, Check for Understanding, Closure) • Small Group Instruction: will follow immediately after whole group lesson with support from special education teachers and paraprofessionals in separate virtual rooms. • School Administration and Instructional Coach will attend and assist during live, direct instruction sessions • Multiple observations will be taking place by the authorized evaluators during virtual sessions
<p>Detailed plans and examples of how the school district or charter school will provide substantive distance learning such as a description of modes of instruction, methods of content delivery, and a process for monitoring learning. This section shall also include plans to support every student, teacher and staff member in accessing a device and internet connectivity if the plan relies on online learning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students in kindergarten through 5th grade including Adult Ed students will be assigned a laptop with camera and built in microphone • Each certified teacher will be provided a laptop with camera and built in microphone • School purchased 50 subscriptions to online platform WebEx for certified teachers • Families who do not have reliable access to internet will be provided school purchased Verizon hot spot devices • School has purchased an annual subscription for ELA through Houghton Mifflin Harcourt for Think Central Online • Savvas Realize online platform will be used for access to the enVisions math core content • Students in grades 3-5 will use MI Write online 6-traits based writing instruction and scoring tools programs • Kindergarten-2nd grade students will use SmartyAnts for additional phonics instruction that is tailored to each individual student • Achieve3000 will be used in grades 3-5 for additional comprehension practice and to incorporate science and social studies standards

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All teachers, including special education teachers will be trained in Google Classroom to manage classes, assign work, connect with students, and maintain records of graded assignments and assessments • The school’s IT tech support staff will be on-site and available Monday-Friday from 7:30-3:30 to assist staff and families with any technical issues • School will create and publish a parent feedback form to provide a direct means of communication with the school administration • Culture and Language packets will be distributed to students of all grade levels.
<p>Detailed plans and examples of how the school district or charter school will ensure access and meet the needs of special education and English language learners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All plans for general education teachers and students will be followed by special education teachers and special education students • Special education students will receive services according to their Individual Education Plan (IEP) • Special education teachers will schedule time to meet the minutes outlined in the students’ IEPs • Special education teachers will collaborate with general education teachers to support instruction in core • Lesson plans will be uploaded to Google Classroom and submitted to the administration and sped director every Friday by 3:30pm • Contact with students and parents/guardians will be logged daily in NASIS, the school’s student information system • Related services will follow the teleMed format for delivery of services and logged in NASIS • School will create and publish a parent feedback form to provide a direct means of communication with the school administration • Special Education coordinator will communicate with families to ensure the services are being delivered • The school will provide services per the State's 504 Rehabilitation Act of 1973 per the federal law to all students who qualify. The school will ensure all IEPs plans are followed per the requirements. The school assures that we will not discriminate, has a designee to ensure compliance, provide grievance procedures, identify and locate all children with disabilities who receive education within our school and provide notice of the district’s Section 504 responsibilities and procedural safeguards to parents
<p>Detailed plans and examples of how the school district or charter school will provide social and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Skills built into daily virtual learning schedule • School counselors and tribally provided counseling

emotional learning support to students, including counseling services.	services will be available Monday-Friday to work with students and families
Detailed plans and examples of how the school district or charter school will require students to demonstrate ongoing competency or mastery in grade level or advanced grade level content.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All K-5th grade students will take both standards-based assessments and weekly quizzes from the core curriculum available online • Each student must show a mastery by achieving minimum of 70% on each assessment • Reteach must happen (if needed) either by individual phone calls and/or in separate virtual rooms • Administration expects enough links to relevant audio-visual content available either by access to online core curriculum or on the free domain • All assessments and links to content will be listed in the grade level lesson plans
Detailed plans on how the school district or charter will conduct benchmark testing within the first six weeks of the school year in math and English/language arts for all students in kindergarten programs and grades one (1) through twelve (12).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students, K-5th grade will take the NWEA MAP assessment tentatively during the week of August 17th. • Preschool students including the FACE program will assess students by using TSG-Teaching Strategies Gold and Work Sampling Online
Teacher Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade level staff are required to collaborate during specials at least once per week and on certain Wednesdays dependent upon the PD schedule • Special education teachers will collaborate with the grade level teachers of the students that they serve

Current federal and state guidance may change, and it is critical we prepare a series of plan options and contingencies. We fully expect plans to evolve and adapt over time as further guidance becomes available. All in-school hygiene protocols as established by higher authorities including CDC guidelines will be implemented to the extent possible as long as the risk of COVID-19 is present. All employees will be trained on best practices for maintaining and promoting the following main safety guidelines at all times:

- (i) Social distancing to the extent possible
- (ii) Frequent handwashing
- (iii) Wearing face masks
- (iv) Daily deep cleaning
- (v) Strict travel restrictions for school employees
- (vi) Daily health screener for employees
- (vii) Daily thermal screening for students and staff

Additional changes being implemented by this plan include but are not limited to all school assemblies will be hosted in a blended format (on-site* and virtual), modified lunch schedules and locations, modified format of physical education and other special subject areas such as culture and language, library, and technology. Staffing plans will be developed to account for several social-distancing plans, including the possibility of blended learning (on-site and virtual). If resurgence demands remote learning due to another mandated shut down, BWCS will be ready and able to transition all students to a virtual platform utilizing Google Classroom,

Cisco WebEx, and school wide adopted online programs through Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and Savvas Learning.

*Prior permission for on-site assemblies will be obtained from GRIC COVID Taskforce.

School policies related to travel, new requirements regarding temporary leave (e.g., sick leave, emergency paid sick leave, public health emergency leave) and school safety will be amended and available to all staff in the 2020-2021 School Board Policy Manual. Recommended or required staff testing, COVID questionnaires, and symptom screening policies will be included in writing and available to all staff before returning to work in July of 2020.

Some students may have experienced trauma over the previous year, and our staff and community partners will be ready to support those learners. The daily schedule will include additional time built in for Social Emotional Learning, and relationship building among students and their teacher. Counselors will be available at all times for crisis intervention as well as continued individual and small group counseling.

In reopening BWCS we will continue to set and maintain high expectations for academic growth and competency development. NWEA assessments will be given the first week of onsite school to obtain an accurate gauge of student mastery of the previous year's standards. Any gaps in learning will be addressed through adjusting the scope and sequence to allow time to embed missed standards throughout the 2020-2021 school year. Daily schedules will allow for additional time to re-teach the previous year's standards to account for any additional regression in the student's learning.

School administration will be in constant communication with tribal, state, Bureau of Indian Education office, and other stakeholders.

Declaration of Emergency

The school principal will have the authority to declare a school level emergency, however during a public health emergency, the Gila River Indian Community Council in collaboration with local School Board of Trustees will be the lead agency. To the greatest extent possible decisions to utilize school closures or dismissals (and when to remain in session) will be made in consultation with Gila River Healthcare officials.

Delegation of Authority

The School Board of Trustees has established an organizational chart displaying the succession of authority at BWCS. The principal will prepare written delegations that assigns his/her authority to another individual in the event of the prolonged absence of the individual who normally holds the authority.

Incidents of Potential Exposure/Confirmed Case among Staff or Students

In responding to incidents in which BWCS learns of potential exposure of staff or students to COVID-19 or of confirmed COVID-19 infections among staff or students, BWCS will follow the guidelines for operating schools during the COVID-19 pandemic issued by the Centers for Disease Control (the "CDC guidelines") that are in effect at the time and any applicable public health orders or regulations of the Gila River Indian Community. BWCS's implementation of the CDC guidelines in effect as of the date of this revision (January 12, 2021) is summarized in the sections below. Any updates or changes made to the CDC guidelines will be automatically incorporated into this Reopening Plan and followed by BWCS as of the date they are issued. The CDC's guidelines are posted on the agency's website at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncv/community/schools-childcare/schools.html. BWCS will post updates to this Reopening Plan following

changes or amendments to the CDC guidelines on the school's website (www.bwcs.k12.az.us), but the CDC guidelines currently in effect will be followed regardless of when updates to this Reopening Plan are posted on the School's website. **Implementing the CDC guidelines at BWCS:**

If one student or school employee, **who has been on campus in the last 14 days**, and tests positive for COVID-19 and may have exposed others at BWCS, school leaders will implement the following steps:

Student:

- Notify parents/guardians that an automatic 14-day, or longer if needed, mandatory self-quarantine will be enforced for all students that reside in the same household.
- After the 14-day self-quarantine, all students in the household must be evaluated if the student(s) have no symptoms or are getting better – per CDC guidelines – they can return to campus after:
 - 10 days since symptoms first appeared **and**
 - 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
 - Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving*
- School administration in collaboration with a school nurse will initiate contact tracing and notify parents and guardians of those students that may have been exposed. Staff members that have been in contact with the student will be notified by school administration. This action will be followed up by notifying other higher authorities as required. Complete confidentiality will be maintained at all times.

School Employee:

- If any school employee tests positive and notifies the Human Resource Office, the said employee will be excused from working on campus, but may continue to work virtually as long as they are able.
- School administration in collaboration with a school nurse will initiate contact tracing and notify parents and guardians of those students that may have been exposed. Staff members that have been in contact with the employee will be notified by the HR office. This action will be followed up by notifying other higher authorities as required. Complete confidentiality will be maintained at all times.
- After a positive test, the employee must be evaluated and if the employee has no symptoms or are getting better – per CDC guidelines – they can return to campus after:
 - 10 days since symptoms first appeared **and**
 - 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
 - Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving*

Household Members of Students and Employees:

- If any household member of a student or employee tests positive for COVID-19, a mandatory 14-day self-quarantine will be enforced based on the current CDC guidelines.
- After the 14-day self-quarantine, either proof of negative test results or statement that there were no symptoms present, will allow said students or employees to return to school.

- The exception to this is proof that the student or employee has had COVID-19 within the past 3 months, has fully recovered, and remains symptom free then they do not have to quarantine.

Teacher Absences:

- The school will make all efforts to accommodate the absenteeism of up to 5 certified homeroom teachers. If there are more than 5 certified homeroom teachers absent for any reason, school administration will notify bus drivers and parents/guardians of students in those homerooms that a prepared assignment packet will be delivered to each of those students' home and they will not be attending school for that day or until such time that it is safe for the students to return. Those students will be considered remote learning students and counted as present for the day or as long as required.
- If at any time there are fifty percent or more certified homeroom teachers out for any reason, school administration will officially close the on-site learning. All students from that point forward will be moved over to remote learning. School will use all means of communication including but not limited to robo-calls, texting, phone calls, and school website to notify parents and guardians.

Bus Driver Absences:

- If a bus driver cannot perform their morning pick up duties, the school office will notify the guardians of the students on that route as quickly as possible. Arrangements will be made to delay the route until another driver can pick up the students. Students will not be counted tardy.
- If a bus driver cannot perform their afternoon drop off duties, the school office will notify the guardians of the students on that route as quickly as possible. Arrangements will be made to delay the route until another driver can deliver the students. Guardians may choose to pick the students up at the regular school day dismissal time.
- If more than 2 drivers call in sick, it may result in early dismissal of the students.

Planned Staff Absences:

- Until further notice, no more than 3 certified homeroom teachers will be approved for leave on the same day(s). School administration and staff must work together to understand the needs of the organization as well as of individual employees.

COVID-19 Employee Questionnaire:

- If any employee circles yes on any item on the screening questionnaire or has a temperature greater than 100.4 degree Fahrenheit during the initial check in time, the following mitigation process will be initiated immediately:
 - The employee will be directed to contact the HR office for further course of action
 - A temperature of greater than 100.4 Fahrenheit will require the employee to be sent home, then contact HR or contact a doctor for care.

The following health and safety related deliverables will be made available to all school employees and students:

Employees

- Daily health screeners
- Daily temperature checks
- Bi-weekly COVID-19 testing
- Social distancing protocols in place
- Reduced class size (15:1 ratio)
- PPE-masks and gloves provided
- Mandatory self-quarantine
- Flexible attendance policies
- Training on best practices for hygiene
- Digital devices for remote teaching
- Special area teachers will provide push in services

Students

- Daily temperature checks before boarding the bus or entering the school campus
- Social distancing protocols in place
- Reduced class size (15:1 ratio)
- Option to enroll in remote learning
- PPE-masks provided
- Mandatory self-quarantine
- Flexible attendance policies-no penalty for sick days
- Training on best practices for hygiene
- Frequent handwashing encouraged
- Digital devices for remote learning
- Individual student books and supplies

Campus/Transportation

- All classrooms sanitized multiple times daily
- School buses/vehicles sanitized before and after each route
- Assigned seats on buses and in classrooms
- Common areas closed
- Students desks spaced out 6 feet when feasible
- All classrooms and offices fogged daily

Parent Educators/Home Visitors

- Training on best practices for hygiene
- Additional training for in-home visit precautions
- Daily health screeners for parents
- Daily temperature checks for children and families
- Disposable masks provided to each family
- Digital devices provided to each family
- Virtual visits available