

BBH Middle School Town Hall with Mr. Rings
January 6, 2021
5pm – Parents of OLA (Online Learning Academy) students; 50 attendees
7pm – Parents of “in-person” students; 97 attendees

Info for All Middle School Students:

1. Reminder: End of quarter is 1/14/21
 - a. Parents should help by checking Progress Book with student to make sure assignments are done ahead of time
 - b. Email teacher if any questions about outstanding assignments
2. 2nd Semester
 - a. There will be **two** learning models: OLA (Online Learning Academy) OR In Person
 - i. Jan 11 – Jan 29 – Hybrid schedule
 - ii. After 2/1, in person students will be 5 days in person
 - iii. After 2/1, there will no longer be a hybrid model
 - iv. MS is asking for a semester long commitment to your selected learning platform for planning purposes
 - v. When the in person students return to 5 days (anticipated 2/1/21, BUT there is a possibility of SOONER – sees about possible change in quarantine protocol below), ALL students will return to a “normal” schedule; M – F; 8:10am – 3:05pm (No modified Wednesdays)
 - b. Switching your student from OLA to In Person, OR In Person to OLA
 - i. Email Mr. Rings by Monday Jan 11th with the change
 - ii. Do not need to email if you are not making a change
3. PSO Meeting 1/14/21
 - a. Mr. Rings will be giving a current update and Q & A if anything outstanding / new questions / any changes

Discussion Specific to OLA:

1. Feedback
 - a. Mr. Rings would like feedback from OLA parents: how do we make remote kids feel part of the MS? Comment in chat, or email Mr. Rings (ringst@bbhcsd.org)
 - i. Chat suggestion: Contest for Bees themed zoom background
 - ii. Chat suggestion: More acknowledgement or recognition of remote students in mixed zoom classes, and in communications with entire student body
2. Schedules
 - a. Will be released after grades are in Progress Book (grades have to be put in first)
 - b. Not likely to change unless numbers of students change alot
3. Zooms
 - a. Beginning with the 2nd semester, non OLA teachers are expected to Zoom daily only when there are advanced or accelerated kids on their roster (only applies to accelerated / advanced students)
 - b. All other OLA class sections will be conducted via Zoom as they have been

4. Electives

- a. will be offered like last semester: MS will send an email to kids to see what electives they would like to take. They are not required to take an elective.
- b. Grades for electives will not be issued

Online Learning Academy Q & A:

Q. Can a student switch for the 4th quarter from OLA to in person?

A. "Maybe". This makes planning more difficult which is why families are asked to commit to the entire semester one way or the other, but it will be considered.

Q. Can teachers require kids to have cameras on? They feel more engaged in the class.

A. Zoom reception is often better with cameras off, and video takes up more bandwidth which can make it difficult for some families who have multiple users at once. Also, teachers have discretion.

Q. Will teachers still be the same for the 2nd semester?

A. Yes, most likely. Changes would only be made if the numbers of students electing online vs in person adjusts a lot. So far, the numbers are pretty stable. Also, the Health teacher may be different for 2nd semester, but that is a one semester class anyway.

Q. My student was not able to take Health in the 1st semester due to schedule conflict, is there any way to make sure they can take Health?

A. Possibly. If it doesn't work for 2nd semester also and there are a number of students this affects or it fits in schedule, perhaps can look at taking in 8th grade. Students also have Health again in 9th grade.

Q. What is the plan for 5th Grade IOWA testing?

A. MS is looking at bringing the OLA kids on a separate day than the in person students and make the process faster / more efficient. Mr. Bedford and Mrs. Schwertle will be communicating more information.

Q. If a student is switching to in person from OLA, will they have an opportunity to walk their new in person schedule?

A. Yes. They can walk their new schedule and the plan for that is on 1/15 (after schedules are ready – it may be a hand-written schedule if necessary). This can be arranged with the Counselor.

Discussion Specific to In Person Students:

1. Schedule

- a. MS will **not** be following the same schedule as HS for the month of January
- b. Reason is to be consistent to the in person hybrid schedule that MS has followed all year
- c. Schedule for January and beyond:

Week of Jan 4th: All students are remote

Week of Jan 11th: Hybrid schedule

Mon & Tues: A - L, in person
M - Z, remote
Wed: All students remote
Thurs: A - L, remote
M - Z, in person
Friday: NO SCHOOL

Week of Jan 18th: Hybrid Schedule

Mon: NO SCHOOL
Tues: A - L, in person
M - Z, remote
Wed: All students remote
Thurs & Fri: A - L, remote
M - Z, in person

Week of Jan 25th: Hybrid Schedule

Mon & Tues: A - L, in person
M - Z, remote
Wed: All students remote
Thurs & Fri: A - L, remote
M - Z, in person

Feb 1 – End of School Year: All in person students attend 5 days per week

2. Hybrid vs 5 days per Week

- a. Goal has always been to return to 5 days per week when it is safe to do so
- b. Currently, students will return to 5 days per week on 2/1/21

3. Classrooms

- a. Class sizes under 30, spaces will be reconfigured for 5 day return to school (more students)
- b. Plexiglass available to classrooms for between desks
- c. 10 air purifiers were donated by a BBH family – being placed in interior classrooms without windows to open

4. Zoom
 - a. Beginning 2/1 (or when students return to 5 days per week), there will no longer be the expectation that teachers must conduct lessons via zoom (unless it is an advanced or accelerated class and there is an OLA student on their roster)
 - i. It is more difficult for teachers to focus on both a full classroom of students and a much smaller number that are remote
 - ii. Students should be at school daily (unless special circumstance)
 - iii. Some teachers may still offer zoom
 - iv. Parents should not rely on Zoom lessons as a way to keep students at home
5. Lunchroom
 - a. No longer have extra tables from elementary schools – will reconfigure and space tables at least 6 feet apart
 - b. 5th grade will no longer eat in classrooms
 - c. 5 & 6th grades eat at same time
 - i. More students in lunchroom, so 8-9 kids per table
 - d. 7th & 8th grade have separate lunch periods
 - i. 6-8 kids per table
 - e. No plexiglass at lunch tables
6. Mask Breaks
 - a. Break during lunch
 - b. El period – students go outside when possible
 - i. Kids should distance - If outside within 6 feet, students must still wear mask
 - c. Warmer weather – teachers may take kids outside for short mask breaks
7. Safety Protocols
 - a. Masks required at least through the end of this school year
 - i. Includes music and gym
 - b. Distancing in classrooms – MS will distance as much as possible, where possible
 - i. With all students at school, achieving 6 feet distancing will not always be possible. It may be 3 feet or it may even be less, depending on the space.
8. Possible NEW Guidelines
 - a. Gov DeWine has made new recommendations for schools that may affect our protocols
 - i. **Old rules:** if student reported they tested positive, then school quarantined all students who were within 6 feet of that student for 15 minutes, within the prior 48 hours.
 - ii. Hybrid helped reduce the number of quarantines (more spread out, less kids at once)
 - iii. **New recommendation:** Do not need to quarantine for a positive case reported in the classroom setting IF masks are worn and distancing protocols are followed (distancing measurement not specified)
 - iv. Lunch room and athletics would be the 2 areas where we would still have quarantines due to not wearing masks during these activities
 - b. Superintendent Magyar will be meeting with Cuyahoga County Board of Health for more information and guidelines for our county.
 - c. District follows the Cuyahoga BOH rules for quarantine requirements
 - d. If adopted, new guidelines would result in fewer kids on quarantine and easier to keep kids in the classroom. Our Superintendent and the BBH School Board will ultimately

decide if there is a return to 5 days prior to 2/1/21, but it is the opinion of Mr. Rings that returning 5 days as of the beginning of the 2nd semester could be a good idea based on the new guidelines.

9. Vaccinations for Teaching Staff

- a. Per Governor DeWine, Teaching staff are on the vaccination hierarchy list as “1B”. Indicates vaccinations could be offered within a couple weeks, but given slow rollout overall, it may be longer than that, no definitive info yet.

In Person Meeting Q & A

Q. There were positive cases over winter break that appeared on the dashboard, but no emails went out to parents. Why?

A. Not required to email during a remote period. There were no quarantines.

Q. Will student be required to quarantine if they traveled internationally?

A. Maybe – currently under review

Q. Will student be required to quarantine if they traveled domestically?

A. No

Q. Will student be required to quarantine from school if they were exposed to Covid in a setting that is outside of school / school athletics?

A. Maybe – this is under review. Will report back by PSO meeting on 1/14.

Q. Will parents be notified of a positive Covid case in the child’s classroom?

A. This is under review – Mr. Rings feels the MS wants to do this, defining process.

Q. If student is out due to being Covid positive, or quarantine due to exposure, how will they make up work if there are no daily zooms?

A. Will be up to teachers to help work through that with students – also, discussions are taking place at the MS about the return to 5 days and how to handle various scenarios such as this.

Q. Will students get lockers when they come back 5 days?

A. They already have lockers assigned – contact Gail Woznicki for the locker number and combination. Kids can still carry book bags for the rest of the year if they choose.