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**BELLEVUE COMETS**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

### **Changes for the 2020-2021 School Year (Updated August 11, 2020)**

As our parents, students, and other community members are aware, the COVID-19 pandemic has forced our society, including the Bellevue Community School District, to evaluate some of our normal routines and requirements. The Bellevue Community School District is working to provide the safest routines and environments for our students at all times, along with continuing our focus on academic excellence and opportunities for all students at all grade levels. The following is an updated list of information and changes our students and staff will be experiencing at the start of the school year. Additionally, these steps will be evaluated on a regular basis (every two weeks) to make appropriate adjustments and adaptations. Please note the changes to face coverings, and how the district is approaching this expectation for students.

- **Social Distancing**

- The Bellevue CSD is adjusting several routines and classrooms in accordance with specific social distancing requirements and recommendations from the Iowa Department of Public Health, the Iowa Department of Education, and other organizations. While the Bellevue CSD cannot guarantee that social distancing can be met in all school settings throughout the school day, during school activities, or with transportation, we believe we have made significant strides in meeting the recommendations for the safety of our students and staff and to perform our role in the mitigation of COVID-19 in our school system. The 6-foot social distancing standard will be promoted in the buildings by our staff and with various reminders posted throughout the buildings and grounds.

- **Face Coverings (Face Mask, Face Shields, Neck Gaiters, etc.)**

- The Bellevue CSD is requiring face coverings by all students and staff when 6-foot social distancing guidelines cannot be maintained. Students will not need to keep their face covering on when they are in classrooms in most cases, but would be expected and required to have them on when they enter the buildings, walk in hallways with other students, are waiting in line for lunch, and other instances when people are gathering in an area where social distancing cannot be maintained. The district will provide a face covering to students if needed, although we encourage students to provide their own face coverings whenever possible.

- **Handwashing**

- While hand washing has always been promoted, this practice will be emphasized more in the district for the 2020-2021 school year. Additionally, the proper techniques for handwashing, using hand sanitizer, covering a cough/sneeze, etc. will also be covered extensively for all students.

- **Hand Sanitizer**

- When school begins hand sanitizer will be available at all entrances, in all classrooms, in food service areas, in hallways, locker rooms, and similar areas.
- Mobile Hand Sanitizer stations will also be located at entrances for activities and events (gym area, football field, concession stands, etc.)

- **Student Health Monitoring**

- Your involvement as a parent is always valued and needed. Your dedication to assisting students with their learning and being a support for them is vital. Education is a community effort, and another area where the district and its fellow families and students need parental support is assisting in the monitoring of the health of students. As a result, each day parents need to complete a short health check of their children before school and report any of the following categorical symptoms below to the appropriate school office. These symptoms indicate a possible illness that may decrease the student's ability to learn and also puts them at risk of spreading COVID-19 and other illnesses to their peers and staff at school. Students and staff members with **any** high-risk symptom or **two or more** low-risk symptoms should stay home and are advised to seek an evaluation by a health care provider.

High Risk Symptoms	Low Risk Symptoms
New cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell	Fever, headache, muscle and body aches, fatigue, sore throat, runny nose, congestion, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea

*\*Fever indicates a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, and students should stay home with a fever.*

- If students have a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher or any of the other symptoms students should remain at home and be fever-free (without fever-reducing medicine) for a minimum of 24 hours before returning to school. Students who are absent from their classes at school due to illness, appointments, etc. will access their assignments through the district-level applications of Seesaw (K-5) and Google Classroom (6-12).

- **Protective Shields**

- "Glass Protective Guards" have been placed in school offices and serving lines for breakfast and lunch, along with in some classroom areas.

- **Cleaning**

- Cleaning procedures in general will be enhanced during the school year. Additionally, an Electrostatic Cleaning Machine has been purchased to increase the cleaning effectiveness in classrooms, buses, hallways, playground equipment, and other areas.

- **Transportation**

- The district is adjusting busing routines and procedures as much as possible based on recommendations from the Iowa Department of Public Health, the Iowa Department of Education, and similar organizations. One change, as mentioned earlier, is that face coverings are required on buses and all other school transportation vehicles when social distancing standards of 6-feet cannot be maintained. All drivers will also be wearing face coverings on transportation routes.

- **Water Fountains**

- Water fountains where students drink from the same source will be turned off, although the "water bottle fillers" attached to some drinking fountains are in operation. Students may bring their own water bottle (water only), and this can be filled at these areas or water faucets in specific areas in the building.

- **Visitors**

- The buildings will not be allowing visitors, guest speakers, or volunteers in the schools at the start of the school year. Parents will meet their students in front of the buildings, and parents will need to contact the office prior to entering the school via a phone call or email in most cases. We feel we need to do as much as we can to limit who has access to our buildings.

- **Field Trips**

- The district will not be going on field trips outside of our buildings at this time. This is part of the district attempting to control the environment our students and staff are in as much as possible.

The Bellevue CSD has made these changes for the health and safety of our students and staff based on professional input from across the state and nation. In addition, the survey results from parents, conversations and perspectives from students, parents, and community members, school-based leadership teams, and other districts across the state and nation have assisted us in formulating a plan which we believe will be effective for our students and the entire community.

Thank you in advance for your understanding, patience, and willingness to work together for the success of our school system and everyone involved. The district recognizes this school year will be unique in many ways, but we also believe it will be an outstanding year of student growth and success.

If you have any questions, please contact the school offices or the district office, and for more information please visit the district website at [www.bellevue.k12.ia.us](http://www.bellevue.k12.ia.us).

Sincerely,

Tom Meyer  
Bellevue CSD Superintendent of Schools  
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BELIEVE IN THE BLUE

*It is the policy of the Bellevue Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, gender identity, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability or socioeconomic status in its educational programs, services, or employment practices.*