

Frequently Asked Questions



While we know that the decision for school attendance is a difficult one for families, there is an option for every family and their individual needs. Please know that whatever decision you and your student make, we believe we can still provide the best educational experience. Whether you are at home on E-Learning, on campus part time, or on campus every day, you are still a Pirate and part of the BRHS tradition of excellence.

Q. On what day will the new school year begin?

A. The 2020-2021 school year will begin on Monday, August 17, 2020. That is one week later than originally scheduled. The School Board approved the change to allow school teachers and staff more of an opportunity to train and prepare for new protocols and procedures put in place specifically for this school year. For those students on the Hybrid schedule, we will provide a rotation schedule after July 23.

Q. What are the 3 school reopening options available to students?

A. Very briefly, the three Reopening plans approved by the School Board include a five-day, on-campus instructional plan for parents who want their students to return to school full-time; a hybrid schedule where students mix on-campus learning with eLearning Manatee; and an option for parents who want their students to continue full-time eLearning. To select the best option for your student(s), contact your zoned school.

Q. So students can return to full-time, on-campus learning when the 2020-2021 school year begins?

A. Yes. Commissioner of Education Richard Corcoran's Executive Order 2020-EO-06 states that all school boards and charter school governing boards must open brick and mortar schools at least five days per week for all students subject to advice and orders of the Florida Department of Health. That means that all parents who want their children to return to full-time, on-campus learning will have that option available to them.

Q. Are all students required to return to full-time, on-campus learning?

A. No. While Commissioner Corcoran's Executive Order requires all students to have access to full-time, on-campus learning five days a week, it does not require all students to return to full-time, five-day a week on-campus learning. Under the District's plans, parents have the option to have their children attend school five days a week; select a hybrid schedule where students mix on-campus learning with eLearning Manatee; or continue full-time eLearning through eLearning Manatee. All options are available to students in all grade levels.

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Q. What do you mean by a hybrid plan?

A. A hybrid schedule is a five-day instructional schedule that integrates on-campus learning with eLearning. Students on the hybrid schedule will learn on-campus, in-person two days a week, and online three days a week. Whether in-person, or online, students will receive LIVE teacher instruction and the same current assignments that full-time students receive. In addition, students enrolled in the hybrid model will be able to participate in all school activities and events and will have the full array of student services available to them.

Q. How does full-time eLearning work?

A. Full-time eLearning will be available through eLearning Manatee, which is designed for families who want to maintain their connection to their enrolled Manatee County school, yet don't feel comfortable sending their student(s) back to campus in-person learning this August. eLearning Manatee will include LIVE teacher instruction for daily lessons, as well as the same current assignments that brick & mortar students receive. In addition, eLearning Manatee students will be assigned a teacher from their enrolled Manatee County school and be able to participate in all school activities and events. All IEP/ESOL services will be provided. Parents interested in this option should contact their child's school as soon as possible to register for eLearning Manatee.

Q. When and how do I get my children registered for one of the three plans available?

A. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT. Parents need to let their children(s) school(s) know what plan they want their students to be on when school resumes. In order for our schools to set their schedules and complete their planning, they need to know what option you want for your student(s) by the end of the day July 23, 2020. Please call your schools now and let them know what option is best for your student(s).

Q. What happens if I don't inform my school or schools of my choice of a reopening plan for my child or children by July 22, 2020?

A. If parents don't notify their schools of their plan choices for their children by July 23, 2020, their students will be automatically placed into one of the reopening plan options. Elementary school students and students in sixth grade who are not registered by July 23rd, will be automatically placed into the five-day, full-time return to on-campus learning. That full-time return option will also be automatically applied to all students at Johnson K-8 School and Palm View K-8 School. Secondary school students (grades 7-12), who are not registered by July 23rd, will be automatically placed into the hybrid option.

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Q: Can I change my child’s instructional plan after the school year begins? For example: my student begins the school year on the hybrid schedule - but wishes to change to eLearning Manatee full-time. Is that possible?

A: Yes. All instructional plans will follow the same curriculum guides, standards and pairings. Parents can move their student from one plan to another quarterly. To make such a change, parents must contact their school.

Q. Will all students and district employees be required to wear face masks or face shield coverings?

A. Yes. Face masks or shields are required when students and employees are in school district buildings or on school buses. Face masks and shields will also be worn when outside on school grounds or property unless students are participating in recess, physical education or some other organized outdoors activity where social distancing is practiced. Cloth masks will be provided to all faculty, staff and students. Students should follow dress code rules for face mask coverings in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct and Board Policies. During lunch times at BRHS, students will wear their face coverings until they are seated and socially distanced to eat. The face covering must be worn before leaving their table.

Q. Will students with special needs or medical conditions be required to wear a mask?

A. Medical conditions and IEPs will be addressed individually when it comes to face masks or shield coverings. Please contact your child’s school for more information.

Q. Will students be required to wear face masks or face shields on school buses?

A. Yes. In addition to face masks, school buses will be cleaned daily between school routes.

Q. How will I receive confirmation that my child’s Register to Ride registration was received?

A. Parents are encouraged to download the “Where’s the Bus” application or check the Transportation tab on MySDMC Focus app in August. Bus assignments will also be available to families who call the School District of Manatee County Transportation Department at 941- 782-1287 (1BUS).

Q. What happens if a case of COVID-19 is confirmed at a school?

A. If a school has a confirmed case of COVID-19, the Florida Department of Health in Manatee County will be contacted. Parents and employees of the school will also be informed, although specific information pertaining to the confirmed case cannot be released due to HIPPA, FERPA and ADA laws. Any students or staff members exposed to a confirmed case will be notified and will be subject to 14-day isolation from date of the last known exposure. Exposure occurs when a positive case was in direct contact

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with a staff member or student for at least 15 minutes (within teaching and learning environments). Once a case is confirmed, a portion or portions of the school, or the entire school will be closed for cleaning and disinfecting for 2-5 days depending on the exposure and the parts of the school affected. Actions will be taken on an individual basis based on the circumstances at each school. An outbreak of multiple positive cases in a school may close the entire school.

The procedures above will be the same for confirmed cases in school support sites. When a school closure occurs, all students will be required to continue their daily instructional schedule and academic lessons through our eLearning Manatee platform. The full array of IEP/ESOL services will continue to be provided.

Q. What if a student or employee has symptoms, but is not a confirmed case of COVID-19?

A. If a student or employee is not feeling well, and exhibiting symptoms such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath, or believes they may have been exposed to COVID-19 within the last 72 hours, they should stay at home and not enter a school or district building. The employee or parent of a student should call the school, remain at home and call the Florida Department of Health Manatee County at 1-866-779-6121 and visit a county Covid-19 testing facility immediately.

Q. What safety practices or changes can students and employees expect when schools reopen?

A. Health staff and other designated staff using Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) will conduct daily screening of all employees and random students prior to them being admitted to a school or district worksite. Once the district has the capability to screen all students prior to admittance to school campuses those practices will be initiated.

If an employee has a temperature of 100.4°F or higher, cough, or shortness of breath, they will not be admitted into the building. If a student has any of the above symptoms, they will be kept in a designated isolation room while waiting to be picked up by a parent or guardian.

Visitors to schools or district support sites will be strictly limited until further notice.

Q. Will the district distribute computer devices to students for eLearning purposes? Will internet be provided?

A. Yes, students who do not have a computer device and choose eLearning Manatee will be issued a device from their enrolled school. We cannot guarantee that internet will be provided. Families opting for eLearning should have a plan in place for having consistent internet connection. Please call the school if there are additional concerns that need to be addressed.

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Q. Will after-school programs such as extended day enrichment programs still be offered?

A. Yes, extended day programs will be offered during the 2020-2021 school year. Guidelines and details will be available at a later date.

Q: How will you ensure that students not attending brick and mortar schools five-days-a-week will still receive meals?

A. Food and Nutrition Services is ensuring a plan is in place to accommodate all School District of Manatee County students.

Q: Will COVID-19 testing be a requirement for employees and staff?

A. COVID testing is optional and not a requirement for employees and staff.

Q. How do I let the school know what I want?

A. The deadline to notify the school of your choice is July 23. Call the Braden River High School office at 941-751-8230, ext. 2000. You may also email your decision to Rebecca Austerman, Assistant Principal, at austermanr@manateeschools.net.

Q. Will my student attending hybrid learning interact with students who are going to school daily?

A. Yes, students who are attending the hybrid plan will interact with students who opt in to 5 days a week. We will practice safe social distancing and require facial coverings to adhere to the CDC guidelines. Our goal in all options is to minimize the number of students in any campus area at a time.

Q. Can my student attend events/clubs/etc.?

A. Yes. Students in any of the 3 learning options may participate in all school related events. These activities will follow all CDC guidelines and social distancing protocols.

Q. Will my e-Learning or Hybrid learning student be able to take all of their requested courses?

A. Yes, students course requests were completed early in 2020. The same procedure for scheduling classes will apply. We attempt to give students their first choices for electives, but occasionally have to use their other choices based on class size.

Q. Will e-Learning affect their ability to earn credits needed for graduation?

A. Students who are choosing e-Learning at Braden River High School will have their full schedule with 7 periods/classes. This will keep our e-Learning students on track for graduation and on pace with their graduating class. Students have already submitted their course requests, and our counselors will ensure each student is taking the correct courses to meet graduation requirements. If you would like more information on graduation requirements, please visit our school website and select the Parents and

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Students tab. You can also call and speak to an administrator at your convenience. We would be happy to assist.

Q. How will electives occur in an E-Learning environment?

A. Electives with the hybrid will have learning that occurs both in person and on Schoology. The teachers and curriculum department will work on creating the most effective curriculum that are engaging and rigorous for all three options.

Q. Will there be activities, athletics, and clubs? Who will be able to participate?

A. Students on any of the three plans are able to participate in athletics, activities, and clubs. We will continue to work on the details and share those soon.

Q. What days will hybrid students attend?

A. The hybrid option will be two days a week on campus and three days on e-Learning. Students will be assigned either Monday/Thursday or Tuesday/Friday to be on campus, with Wednesday being designated as an E-Learning day for all hybrid students. After July 23rd, we will then assign the days based on numbers and courses. We anticipate though that there will be students we assign to one day and find out a sibling at another school is on a different assigned day. We will ask that you notify us and we will work with the administrators from the other schools to ensure the rotation assigned will coordinate. We will do what we can to ensure families have the same rotation.

Q. What will students who are opting for 5 days a week do on the hybrid e-learning option day?

A. At this time we are still working on the details. Our current plan is that they would receive direct instruction each day. Our teachers utilized Schoology prior to the pandemic, so we do expect all students to use Schoology as a resource throughout the year.

Q. What will the school day look like?

A. Students will have a 7 period bell schedule each day. Lunch times will be staggered to minimize student interactions. Transitions between classes will be coordinated to also minimize student interactions, such as one direction walking paths.

Q. When can families change their decision regarding the learning option (i.e. move from or to eLearning)?

A. In order to plan for a student who needs to change to or from E-Learning, the district is planning for those changes to be made at the end of the quarter, as that is a natural "break" in the grading and setting.

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Q. What additional steps are being taken to address safety of students and staff on campus?

A. We have increased the number of hand sanitizing stations throughout campus so that hand disinfecting is convenient to all students and staff. We will emphasize and teach proper hand washing and sanitizing to all students and staff at the beginning of the year. Our custodial staff are increasing the supplies to staff on campus for cleaning and disinfecting throughout the day, as well as implementing additional disinfecting procedures daily for frequently touched surfaces. Students are welcome to bring their own personal hand sanitizer to use throughout the day. While we are providing 2 masks to each student, they are welcome to bring their favorite face covering from home to use while on campus in accordance with District requirements.

Q. Will there be opportunities for eLearning students and families to learn more about Schoology and eLearning expectations?

A. In August, we will prepare tutorials to demonstrate where to find course materials and content in Schoology, as well as how to complete work in the learning platform.