



**Bronx Community Charter School**

**Re-opening Plan**

**during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis**

**September 2020\***

\* Please note: this draft plan is subject to change and will be revised in collaboration with our community.

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# Guiding Principles

1. Prioritizing the health and safety of our students, staff members, and families;
2. Ensuring the delivery of a robust, comprehensive, and mission-consistent educational program;
3. Aligning with (and exceeding when relevant) guidance from local, state, and national health authorities;
4. Responding and adapting thoughtfully to a rapidly evolving environment;
5. Promoting equity and underscoring the dignity of every person in all our efforts

# Process

This plan was developed by the leadership team at BxC in collaboration and consultation with our staff, our families, our Board of Trustees and the UFT Chapter at BxC. We are grateful for the contributions of so many thoughtful and productive community members.

In the spring of 2020, the Leadership Committee, made up of members of the school leadership team and members of the UFT representing each grade and each non-classroom team in the school community, met daily to develop plans for three possible scenarios: remote learning, hybrid learning, and fully in-person learning. Within each plan, we considered: teaching and learning structures, professional development, and safety and physical provisioning.

Throughout the pandemic, school leadership has partnered with the NY Charter Schools Association, the NYC Charter Center, heads of school at like-minded charter, public, and independent schools, the NY State Education Department and the NYC Department of Education. These affiliations provide us with guidance and support as we move forward in this next chapter.

We will remain flexible and responsive to public health recommendations. We are prepared to adjust course based on directives of the state of New York, New York City, or changes in the trajectory of infections or risk in the community.

## BxC's phased-in approach

Stage

REMOTE AND OUTDOOR LEARNING

Stage

TRANSITION TO BLENDED LEARNING

NB: The launch date of stage 2 will depend on city, state, and national benchmarks as well as clear direction for response to positive cases within the community

Stage

BLENDED LEARNING: In person school, remote learning and outdoor learning

## STAGE 1: REMOTE AND OUTDOOR LEARNING

BxC places the health and safety of our students, staff and families at the forefront of our decision-making. We work to be intentional and thoughtful in our decisions and actions. At this point in time, our energies and time are best spent on planning for how we will do remote learning even better this fall. We also recognize the importance of in-person interaction for students' social development and will be planning for outdoor activities in the Bronx River Park near BxC, as well as other local parks and playgrounds.

Focus: Community building and social-emotional learning supports; individualized assessments and development of individual learning plans; launching academic learning in all subject areas

### Instruction:

- **CONSISTENT SCHEDULES:** Classes will have set schedules for live instruction that are consistent throughout the week. This will enable families to plan around when children need to be available for live interaction and when they can engage in asynchronous work that will be a balance of digital and non-digital assignments.
- **CURRICULUM:** Virtual instruction will include all of the core academic subjects as well as BxC's arts, Spanish, and science specials. Students will receive weekly instruction in:
  - ELA
  - Math
  - Science and social studies
  - Art, Dance, Drumming, Drama, Spoken Word, or Spanish
  - PE
- **SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING:** BxC will prioritize the importance of social-emotional learning this fall to support students as they continue to grapple with our current reality and the impact it has on their own well-being. Staff will be trained in trauma-responsive practice, make plans for relationship building and community building, and work to proactively support students and their families.
- **SPECIAL EDUCATION AND ENL SERVICES:** ICT services will be provided in the context of live teaching when teachers work in parallel groups, alternative groups, and partnerships. Children who receive SETSS, related services and ENL support will have individualized schedules to ensure that they receive their mandated services and are able to participate in the general class. Each child with an IEP will have a 1:1 case worker who will serve as the liaison with their family.
- **OUTDOOR OPPORTUNITIES:** Based on current science that shows that the virus is less likely to be transmitted in outdoor spaces, especially with masks and social distancing AND the fact that we know that social connection and interaction is very important to children's development, we plan to offer weekly social and learning opportunities for students in Bronx River Park as well as other playgrounds and parks.

### Technology:

- **DEVICES:** In the spring, BxC distributed hundreds of devices to students to supplement what people had in their homes. **In the fall, we will have a 1:1 model in which every student K-3 will be provided with an iPad and every student 4-8 will be provided with a Chromebook. Each student will also be provided with headphones with a microphone.** This provisioning is based on research into best practices for remote learning as well as BxC's commitment to equity.
- **CONNECTIVITY:** We will continue to work with families on an as-needed basis to ensure connectivity, building upon our successful work connecting families in the spring.

- **SUPPORT:** We will host workshops for families to support students with remote learning. In addition, each family will have access to a tech support liaison who will help address any technical issues.

**Materials:**

- **BOOKS:** Students will receive non-fiction and fiction books from school so that they have physical books to read at home.
- **SCHOOL SUPPLIES:** Each student will receive an individual kit of grade-appropriate supplies that will include math materials, writing materials, etc. to support their at-home learning.
- **PACKETS:** When developmentally and curricularly appropriate, students will receive packets to support their at-home learning.

## STAGE 2: TRANSITION TO BLENDED LEARNING

When the following public health assurances and policies are in place and proven to keep school communities safe, BxC will move to stage 2. The assurances include, but are not limited to: placement of a nurse or other medical professional on site, a safe and clear plan for student transportation, and clear public policy for how schools should respond when there's a positive case in the community.

**Focus:** Learning how the building works and how to “be” in school; building independent learning lives; continuing academic learning in all subject areas

**HOW WILL WE PHASE IN?** Phase 2 will last for 4-8 weeks.

- One day a week in school learning for those whose families want to participate
- Continued remote school for all
- Weekly in-person outdoor opportunities

**IN-PERSON SCHOOLING PLAN** will follow all of the following guidance:

[NYSED Reopening Guidance](#)

[Department of Health Guidance](#)

Reopening of in-person instruction includes protocols and procedures for restarting school operations including students, faculty, and staff returning to in-person instruction.

### Capacity

- BxC used architectural models to assess the capacity of our classroom spaces. Each room can hold between 10 and 14 individuals while allowing for 6 feet of social distancing in any direction. With these calculations, the building can accommodate around 300 people, or about half of our school community.
- Ventilation: BxC's facility has been upgraded with the highest quality HEPA filters as well as UV lights in the ventilation system to kill any virus particles.
- Phase 2 will involve two grade cohorts in the building each day, a capacity far below our allowable number, allowing for students to learn protocols and procedures while limiting the amount of close contact between students in the building.
- Students will be in pods the size of which will be determined by demand and the capacity of each classroom. Their interactions will be limited to the individuals in their pod.
- In phase 2, staff will be able to determine for themselves their preference of remaining working fully remotely or coming to the building to work with students.

### Social Distancing

- Classroom spaces will be arranged with set places for students and adults to sit throughout the day. These spaces are measured and are a minimum of 6 feet apart from each other in every direction.
- Additionally the following guidelines will be adhered to in the school:
  - Flow of students into school and in hallways will be greatly reduced.
  - Hallways will have visual support for social distancing and directionality.



- Movement will be limited between classrooms as much as possible for students and staff. This includes lunch time (ie. students stay in the classroom for lunch, go to the garden, the park etc.)
- Classroom furniture will be limited to allow for maximum space between people.
- The pod model allows for small groups of students to be together at all times and to mix with one other pod when outside in large open spaces.
- The number of students and number of pods with which teachers come into contact will be minimized.
- Food sharing prohibited + Students will have Individual materials
- Visual aids (e.g., painter's tape, stickers, posters, cones etc.) to illustrate traffic flow and appropriate spacing to support social distancing;
- Restrict the use of classrooms and other places where students, faculty, and staff gather (e.g., lockers, cubbies, entryways, hallways), so that individuals can be socially distanced.
- Ensure that a distance of twelve feet in all directions is maintained between individuals while participating in activities requires projecting the voice (e.g., singing) or aerobic activity.

### **PPE and Face Coverings**

- All individuals are required to have a face covering or mask in place before they enter the building. Masks with valves are not acceptable.
- Students and staff must wear face coverings or masks at all times, with exceptions only for those students or staff for whom it is not safe to do so due to age, medical conditions, or other considerations according to CDC Guidelines.
- BxC will also adhere to social distancing of 6 feet throughout the entire school day.
- Parents will be responsible for providing students with face coverings or masks.
  - BxC will have backup disposable masks available for students and staff who need them.
  - Staff may choose to wear their own mask or one provided by the BxC.
  - BxC will comply with OSHA Guidelines for PPE and face coverings particularly for those staff that must have close contact with students due to the nature of their work and those that are in the isolation room.
- Teachers can take students to an outside area for a mask break (ie.roof, walk around the block)

### **Hygiene, Cleaning and Disinfecting Frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing**

- All students and staff will engage in frequent hand washing, including upon arrival, before and after meals, after bathroom use, after coughing or sneezing, and before dismissal.
- Hand sanitizer will be placed at all entrances used by staff and students, in the hallways and within all rooms. Students and staff are encouraged to sanitize often during the day.
- Protocols will be established for effective hand washing in accordance with NY Dept of Health Guidelines. If hand washing is not available, hand sanitizer with at least 75 percent alcohol content will be used.
- Signage will be placed throughout the school for effective hand washing and sanitizing. Regular cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting, and disposal protocols
- BxC will undertake new routines and proper signage to ensure that facilities and surfaces are regularly cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected in accordance with NY Dept of Health Guidelines (DoH) throughout the BxC day and rooms are deep cleaned by custodial staff nightly.
- Custodial staff will follow all cleaning protocols set forth by NYC Division of School Facilities

- Paper products will be made readily available to all to ensure respiratory hygiene (sneezing/coughing).

## Monitoring

### Screening

BxC will require staff to complete daily remote required self-screenings prior to arrival at school and require parents/guardians to screen their child for symptoms before sending them to school as well as per the following DoH screening guiding questions:

Has the staff/guardian/child...

- knowingly been in close or proximate contact (within 6 feet for at least 10 minutes) in the past 14 days with anyone who has tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 or who has or had symptoms of COVID-19
  - tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 in the past 10 days
  - has experienced any symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 10 days:
    - Temperature of greater than 100.0°F
    - A new cough, new loss of taste or smell or shortness of breath
  - traveled internationally or from a state with widespread community transmission of COVID-19 per the New York State Travel Advisory in the past 14 days.
- Any persons with a “Yes” response to any of the above screening questions will not be allowed to enter the school
  - Students and staff are required to notify the school when they develop symptoms or if their answers to the questionnaire change during or outside school hours.
  - Screening of students and staff must include a daily temperature check.
  - All visitors and vendors will be temperature checked at point of entry and will be required to remain masked for the duration of their visit
  - Temperature checks will also be performed at entry points by BxC staff upon arrival in the morning for students and staff. ○ Persons who have a fever of 100.0 degrees or above or other signs of illness will not be admitted to the BxC building. If a minor under the age of 13 is unaccompanied they will be placed in the isolation room and await a parent/guardian to pick them up.
  - All persons entering the building must use hand sanitizer provided at entry points.
  - BxC will follow screening safety guidelines set forth by the CDC.
  - BxC will strongly recommend the same parent or designated person should drop off and pick up the child every day. If possible, older people such as grandparents or those with serious underlying medical conditions should not pick up children, because they are more at risk.

### Student Shows Symptoms of COVID-19 While at School

- A classroom teacher or school aide notifies the BRT that a student is not well and experiencing one or more COVID-like symptoms, including:
  - Fever of 100.0 degrees F or higher or chills,
  - New cough,
  - New loss of taste or smell, and/or

- New shortness of breath.
- The student showing symptoms of COVID-19 will be escorted to the Isolation Room by a designated BRT member wearing appropriate PPE.
- The area/classroom where the student was showing symptoms must be cleaned as soon possible. A deep cleaning of the area/classroom must be performed at the end of the day.
- BRT Emergency Officer calls the student's guardian for pick up.
  - When the ill student is placed in the Isolation Room, the building nurse will be contacted and will come to the Isolation Room and assess the student.
  - Should the nurse/health professional be unavailable at that moment to examine the student, the student must wait in the building's Isolation Room until assessment is complete.
- The student cannot be released to the guardian until the health assessment is completed.
- Upon arrival of the student's guardian, the BRT Emergency Officer escorts the student to the visitors' entrance for pick-up by the guardian, reviews the NYCDOE's "Sent Home With Symptoms" letter with the guardian, and advises the student to visit a doctor and get tested for COVID-19, and provides the information of the closest testing site
- (Open external link)
- When the ill student has been picked up and the Isolation Room is empty, the Isolation Room must be closed momentarily for a rapid deep cleaning, so the room may be opened again quickly. A deep cleaning of the Isolation Room must be performed at the end of the day.
- The principal, BRT Leader and/or Recorder will ensure that the incident involving the ill student is:
  - Reported to the Department of Health by calling 866-692-3641
- The Department of Health will provide the principal with a letter to be disseminated to the school community regarding a student exhibiting COVID-like symptoms during the school day. BxC will use all communication platforms available to disseminate the letter.
- Family support will follow up with the family on the ill student's condition on regular intervals.
- The principal and/or designee shares any test results or updates with the Department of Health

### **Staff member Shows Symptoms of COVID-19 While at School**

- The ill staff member immediately notifies principal that they are not feeling well and are experiencing COVID-like symptoms.
  - Symptoms of COVID-19 include:
    - Fever of 100.0 degrees F or higher or chills,
    - New cough,
    - New loss of taste or smell and/or,
    - New shortness of breath.
- The principal will alert the BRT for awareness and potential support, including temporary coverage of a class, and nurse, if necessary.
- The school will advise the staff member to get tested as soon as possible.
- The staff member goes home.
  - If the staff member does not immediately leave the building and needs to wait for transportation assistance, the staff member may report to the Isolation Room.
  - Any staff member with special health concerns are managed by the BRT Special Needs Coordinator.
- The area/classroom where the staff member was showing symptoms must be cleaned as soon possible. A deep cleaning of the area/classroom must be performed at the end of the day.

- The DOH will provide the principal with a letter to be disseminated to the school community regarding a staff member having exhibited COVID-like symptoms during the school day.
  - The school may use any communication platform available to disseminate the letter.
- The principal and/or designee will follow up with the ill staff member and share any test results or updates with the DOH

## Testing

BxC will follow all DoE Guidelines including the following recommendations:

- All school-based staff get tested at least seven days before the start of in-person instruction and get tested on a regular basis, at least once a month in NYC prioritized testing locations.
- Once in-person learning has begun, we will follow the NYCDOE and DoH will help guidance for a rolling pattern of testing for all school-based staff.

If a symptomatic student is sent home but has had no known contact with a positive case, the student can only return to school when all the following are met.

- Presents clearance from a health care provider evaluation AND
- The student has been symptom free for 24 hours without the use of medication.
- Additionally, the student should participate in remote learning, if feeling well enough.
- If DoH or Test + Trace determines the student is considered a close contact of a positive case, the student can only return to school when all the following are met:
  - The student has completed a 14-day quarantine regardless of symptoms or test results since their last exposure to that case AND
  - Presents clearance from a health care provider evaluation AND
  - The student has been symptom free for 24 hours without the use of medication.
  - Additionally, the student should participate in remote learning, if feeling well enough.
- If the student does not get tested, then the student cannot return to school until:
  - 10 days have passed since the first symptom AND
  - The student has been symptom free for 24 hours without the use of medication.

If a school-based staff member shows symptoms of COVID-19 while at school:

- School-based staff members showing symptoms at COVID-19 will be directed to leave the building.
- The school will strongly encourage the staff member to visit a doctor and get tested for COVID-19.

If the staff member has had no known contact with a positive case, the staff member can only return to work when all the following are met:

- Presents a negative COVID-19 test result AND
- Presents clearance from a health care provider evaluation AND
- The staff member has been symptom free for 24 hours without the use of medication.

If DoH or Test + Trace determine the staff member is considered a close contact of a positive case, the staff member can only return to work when all the following have been met:

- The staff member has completed a 14-day quarantine regardless of symptoms or test results since their last exposure to that case AND

- Presents clearance from a health care provider evaluation AND
- The staff member has been symptom free for 24 hours without the use of medication.

If the staff member does not get tested, then the staff member cannot return to school until:

- 10 days have passed since the first symptom AND
- The staff member has been symptom free for 24 hours without the use of medication.

## **Early Warning Signs and Closure Triggers**

In order for schools to reopen, and remain open, the percentage of positive tests in New York City must be less than 3% using a 7-day rolling average. Schools will close if the percentage of positive tests in New York City are equal to or more than 3% using a 7-day rolling average.

It is important to note that the above threshold is just one trigger for closing schools, but may not be the only trigger. For example, a decision to close schools would be based on recurring, uncontrolled outbreaks of COVID-19 in schools, even if the overall case rates across New York City remained low.

School administrators will consider closing school if early warning indicators such as increased absenteeism or increased illness in the school rise beyond an acceptable level and will impact the ability of the school to operate safely even if the overall case rates across New York City were to remain low

## **Containment**

### **School Health Office**

DoH school nurse is responsible for triage of all symptomatic persons. BxC staff will immediately escort any student or adult with indications set forth by the NYC DoH during the school day to the isolation room so that the school nurse can make the determination if they must be sent home. All reports by the school nurse should be made in compliance with HIPAA, FERPA, and Education Law 2-d. BxC will staff the isolation room and assist the school nurse as needed with:

- Student supervision
- Telephone calls, text, or emails to parents/guardians
- Provide assistance with completing any required paperwork other than nursing documentation.

### **Isolation**

- Symptomatic students will be escorted to a separate isolation room overseen by staff until they can be picked up by their guardian.
- Staff and students will be properly masked and distanced at all times while in the isolation room. Staff will be wearing additional PPE when they are in the isolation room as per CDC guidelines.
- Students will be escorted from the isolation room to the guardian upon their arrival at the designated school entrance to limit visitors within the school building.
- The guardian will be instructed to call their health care provider, or if they do not have a healthcare provider, to follow up with a local clinic or urgent care center. BxC will share a list of resources to assist the family with getting the student assessed and tested.

### **Infected Individuals**

- BxC will follow DoH recommendation for 10 days in isolation for a positive test or probable case based on symptoms.

- The class pod will close and all students move to remote learning until further guidance is received from DoH Testing and Tracing team.
- Documentation from a healthcare provider evaluation indicating symptom resolution, or if COVID-19 positive, release from isolation, indicated by these CDC guidelines will be required to return to hybrid learning for students.
- Infected staff will be allowed to return to work according to the Interim Guidance for Public and Private Employees Returning to Work Following COVID 19 Infection or Exposure. Exposed Individuals
- Exposed individuals must remain home for 14 days and transition to remote learning.
- Exposure consideration is if persons were within 6 ft for 10 minutes or more of infected persons.
- Negative COVID tests will not allow them to return before the 14 day exposure quarantine period.
- We will follow the DoE recommendation that we quarantine the whole pod of students after one positive or suspected case of student or staff infection for 14 days after exposure and move to remote.
- 10 days in isolation is required for a positive test or probable case based on symptoms. 14 days is required for exposure to an infected person.
- After the 10 day in isolations for positive cases and 14 days in isolation for exposure, documentation from a healthcare provider indicating symptom resolution indicated by these CDC guidelines will be required to return to in person learning for students.
- Exposed staff will be allowed to return to work according to the Interim Guidance for Public and Private Employees Returning to Work Following COVID 19 Infection or Exposure.

### **Hygiene, Cleaning and Disinfection**

- BxC will close off areas used by a sick person and not use these areas until after cleaning and disinfection has occurred by custodial staff or an outside provider per CDC and DoH guidelines and using proper disinfectant materials.

As per the guidelines BxC will be:

- Opening outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.
- Waiting at least 24 hours before cleaning and disinfection. If waiting 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible
- Cleaning and disinfecting all areas used by the person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, such as offices, classrooms, bathrooms, lockers, and common areas.
- Once the area has been appropriately deep cleaned and disinfected it will be reopened for use. ○ Individuals without close or proximate contact with the person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 can return to the area and resume school activities immediately after cleaning and disinfection. Contact Tracing
- DoH will notify the school of any cases that affect the school identified by the NYC Contact Tracing Corps.
- If a positive test result is reported directly to the school before the DOH contacts the school then the school will contact the DOH
- If a positive case is reported the pod will close and all students will move to remote learning until further instructions received from DoH
- The DOH then conducts contact tracing and will request all necessary information from the school ○ The DOH then advises the school on next steps
- If there are two or more positive tests in the building then the building will be closed while the DOH conducts contact tracing

- BxC will not try to determine who is to be excluded from school based on contact without guidance and direction from the local department of health.
- BxC will cooperate with state and local health department contact tracing by knowing who may have had contact at school with a confirmed case by:
  - Keeping accurate attendance records of students and staff members.
  - Ensuring student schedules are up to date.
  - Keeping a log of any visitors which includes date, time and where in the school they visited.
  - Assisting local health departments in tracing all contacts of the individual at school in accordance with the protocol, training, and tools provided through the New York State Contact Tracing Program. Communication
    - BxC will provide regular updates about health and safety, scheduling, and all other information families should be aware of in a variety of accessible forms including: email, Text messaging via Remind, and mass texting
    - BxC will use templates provided by DoH to communicate with families related to instances of COVID exposure or positive cases found in school.
    - Student confidentiality will be maintained at all times according to HIPPA, FERPA and Education Law 2-d.

## **Closure**

BxC will follow DoE guidance to determine the parameters, conditions or metrics (e.g., increased absenteeism or increased illness in the school community) that will serve as early warning signs that positive COVID-19 cases may be increasing beyond an acceptable level. In order for schools to reopen and stay open, the percentage of positive tests in New York City must be less than 3% using a 7-day rolling average. Schools will need to close if the percentage of positive tests in New York City are equal to or more than 3% using a 7-day rolling average. It is important to note that the above threshold is just one trigger for closing schools but may not be the only trigger. For example, a decision to close schools would be made where there were recurrent, uncontrolled outbreaks of COVID-19 in schools, even if the overall case rates across New York City were to remain low.

Closure Triggers We will follow the DoE and DOH guidelines as outlined below:

<b>Conclusion of Investigation</b>	<b>During Investigation (for at least 24 hours)</b>	<b>After Investigation</b>
One confirmed case	Close classroom, transition to remote learning	Classroom remains closed for 14 days; students and staff in close contact with positive case quarantine for 14 days
At least two cases linked together in school, same classroom	Close classroom, transition to remote learning	Classroom remains closed for 14 days; students and staff in close contact with positive case quarantine for 14 days
At least two cases linked together in school, different classrooms	Close school building, transition to remote learning	School opens after investigation; classrooms of each case remain closed and quarantined for 14 days Additional school members are quarantined based on where the exposure was in the school (e.g., the locker room)
At least two cases linked together by circumstances outside of school (e.g., acquired infection by a setting and/or source outside of the school)	Close school building, transition to remote learning	School opens after investigation; classrooms remain closed for 14 days
At least two cases linked together by circumstances outside of school (e.g., acquired infection by a setting and/or source outside of the school)	Close school building, transition to remote learning	School opens after investigation; classrooms remain closed for 14 days



At least two cases, not linked, exposure occurred for each outside of school setting	Close school building, transition to remote learning	School opens after investigation; classrooms remain closed for 14 days
At least two cases linked together by circumstances outside of school (e.g., acquired infection by a setting and/or source outside of the school)	Close school building, transition to remote learning	School opens after investigation; classrooms remain closed for 14 days

## Operations

The operations team and family support team will:

- Ensure all families have supplies needed to switch to fully remote.
- Ensure all families have technology necessary to switch to fully remote
- Switch all attendance tracking to remote protocols.
- Notify school nurse, DoH, DoE School Foods and OPT of school closure.
- Notify the custodial team of school closure and request deep cleaning of all rooms.

## Child Nutrition

As school food service operations transition from serving meals during unanticipated school closures and summer meals to serving school meals, School Food Authorities (SFAs) will need to consider national, state, and local health and safety guidelines. It is important that SFAs engage school food service directors in district or system wide discussions regarding plans for reopening schools to ensure that students participating in all learning models have access to healthy meals. BxC uses the services of DoE School Foods for all our student meals.

### In school learning students

All students in school will take all meals provided by DoE Office of School Foods within their classrooms

- Operations staff will ensure all school meals are bagged for pick up from the cafeteria
- Operations staff will pick up and deliver bagged meals directly to classrooms
- All eating surfaces will be disinfected/sanitized prior to and after meals
- All students will wash and sanitize their hands prior to and after eating
- All students will maintain 6 ft social distance while they are eating and unmasked

### Remote learning students

For families remaining in remote learning BxC will continue to share updated information from DoE Office of School Foods regarding grab and go meal locations as well as food bank and SNAP assistance locations to ensure all families have access to nutritional meals.

## Transportation

Pupil transportation also presents certain unique challenges, especially with regard to the transportation of homeless students, students in foster care, students in nonpublic and charter schools, and students with disabilities. So, it is critical that schools and school districts must be sure to include Transportation Department staff in all school re-opening planning.

BxC uses the school busing services of NYC Office of Pupil Transportation BxC is awaiting information from the NYC Office of Pupil Transportation about how school busing will be made available and this section will be updated as soon as guidelines are received. BxC will communicate all matters regarding transportation with families.

## **Socio-Emotional Well-Being**

Ensure that a district-wide and building-level comprehensive developmental school counseling program plan, developed under the direction of certified school counselor(s), is reviewed and Recovering, Rebuilding, and Renewing: The Spirit of New York's Schools Questions related to this guidance may be directed to reopening.guidance@nysed.gov updated to meet current needs.

Below is a detailed description of the BxC school counseling program plan, which has been updated to meet current needs regarding the Covid 19 public health emergency.

### **Mental Health and Trauma-Responsive Practices for Staff**

- Professional Development sessions for staff on:
  - Trauma-informed practices,
  - Self-care, and
  - How to support students during a public health crisis
- Creating spaces for staff reflection: all-staff meetings, adult crew, team meetings, co-director teacher check-ins, and surveys
- Survey staff regularly to assess needs
- Opportunities for staff to connect (e.g. lunches, game nights, workshops)
- Opportunities for staff to have 1:1 check-ins with a clinical social worker on staff or with co-directors during Office Hours

- Curriculum: Students will continue to receive virtual instruction in all of the core subjects during Stage 2.
- Special Education and ENL

## **STAGE 3: BLENDED LEARNING**

Two days/week in person for those whose families want to participate

Four days/week for Early Childhood

Continued remote school for all

Weekly in-person outdoor school opportunities

## FAMILY COMMUNICATION

During this crisis and constantly changing school plans, it's essential that we have clear and direct communication with every family.

- Everyone on Remind App
- Everyone signed up for text blasts
- Weekly grade level newsletters
- Weekly updates from leadership
- Bi-weekly Community Council
- Bi-weekly adult learning workshops

## RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

BxC is committed to being a school that advances anti-racism, equity, and social justice in the ways we educate our students, the ways we work with our families, and the ways that we operate as an institution. This commitment was a founding principle of the school and there is a lot for us to be proud of, but so much need for growth and improvement as well. We are committed to deepening and expanding this work in the following ways:

- Using our whole staff reading and study of We Want to Do More Than Survive: Abolitionist Teaching and the Pursuit of Educational Freedom by Dr. Bettina Love and Culturally Responsive Pedagogy and the Brain: Promoting Authentic Engagement and Rigor Among Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students by Zaretta Hammond.
- Setting up structures for staff members and students to name and address racialized comments and incidents
- Devoting significant professional development time during our Summer Institute and Friday PD sessions throughout the year to important conversations about anti-racism
- Elevating the voices and impact of BIPOC school leaders and other BIPOC staff
- Analyzing our curriculum and materials from K-8 with an anti-racist lens, making revisions to some units and replacing others
- Creating more opportunities to hear students' voices in guiding and evaluating what they're learning
- Increasing our use of circle structures to ensure that all participants's voices are honored and help create paths forward

