

*The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed,  
a stronghold in times of trouble. Psalm 9:9-10*

## **THE BEARS ARE BACK!**

Friday, October 23rd, 2020

Dear St. Bernard School Families,

Greetings! As you are aware, we have been making plans for returning to school. We have spent the last week working with a variety of stakeholders to create a return plan that would enable us to return to school in the safest way possible for everyone - teachers, students and families.

Attached, you will find the details of our reentry plan, including a separate document entitled Questions and Answers. Most importantly, we have a plan to return to the school building on November 2nd, 2020 in a modified fashion.

**PK** - Return to school with NO modifications, Monday-Friday

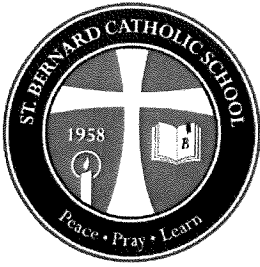
**K-8** - Return to school on A and B days

### **A/B Days provide the following:**

- Each homeroom class is divided into A and B groups, cutting down in-person attendance significantly, and allowing students to spread out truly "social distance".
- This provides ½ the number of students in the classroom, lunchroom and at recess.
- Students are able to see their teachers and friends in person while staying safe
- Teachers are able to adequately keep their social distance as well, limiting the potential for the large number of student and teacher quarantines.

### **A/B Day Placement:**

- Families with multiple children will be placed so that they are all on the same daily schedule.
- Intervention groups will also be kept together on the same days.
- Students of SBS teachers will be able to attend their classroom on asynchronous days in order to remain at full staff.



- Students who do not have siblings will be placed so that they are with a friend or two, and so that our class sizes can truly be as evenly balanced in number as possible.
- If you have any questions or any special concerns that need to be addressed, please feel free to contact Mrs. Blahnik, Mrs. Thomas or Mrs. Tilleman.  
[cblahnik@gracesystem.org](mailto:cblahnik@gracesystem.org), [athomas@gracesystem.org](mailto:athomas@gracesystem.org), [mtilleman@gracesystem.org](mailto:mtilleman@gracesystem.org).

### Face to Face OR Virtual:

While we think this is the best way to get students back in the building, some families will still be uncomfortable with returning. Families will be asked during conferences if they plan to attend Face to Face on this new schedule, or if they will continue virtually until the Trimester changes on November 25th. If you have any questions or any special concerns that need to be addressed, please feel free to contact Mrs. Blahnik, Mrs. Thomas or Mrs. Tilleman.  
[cblahnik@gracesystem.org](mailto:cblahnik@gracesystem.org), [athomas@gracesystem.org](mailto:athomas@gracesystem.org), [mtilleman@gracesystem.org](mailto:mtilleman@gracesystem.org).

### Two Points of Clarification:

- 1. The asynchronous days (at home days) K-5 will NOT be "live"**, but students will have a schedule and they will have assignments that will need to be completed for their next day of face to face class. Sometimes, a teacher may have a whole class prayer or meeting with all students, but that will not be the norm.
- 2. Several middle school classes will be taught all week in a continuous fashion.** Students in these classes will need to continue to attend class virtually when they are at home. The classes with this expectation will be communicated to families prior to the start of school on Nov. 2nd.

### Technology

- **Kindergarten** Students will not have devices to take home. Families in need of devices need to let their classroom teacher know so that we can try to get you what you need.
- **1st/2nd Grades** - Each student will be issued an Andriod tablet to take back and forth from school to home.
- **3rd-8th Grades** - Each student will have their Chromebook to take back and forth from school to home.
- **IMPORTANT** - We will need to collect Chromebooks that are currently in use by our K-2nd grade students. We need to issue these to older students and issue 1st and 2nd grade students their tablets. We will collect these on October 29th and 30th at school.












### Transportation and Food Service

- **PK Students** - food service will be available all five days
- **K-8 Students** - food service will be provided when in person, and students will be able to take home food for their asynchronous days as well.
- We are currently working with **First Student** and if pick-up times need to be adjusted to account for ½ the ridership on the routes we will alert you as soon as we find that out.

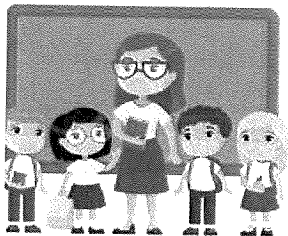
I am sure that some of this information will be inviting while other pieces of it may take some digesting. Please take the weekend to think about this new plan and how this will affect your family either positively or negatively. I believe that this plan provides a solid way of getting back together in a safe and manageable way for everyone. This plan is not forever, but it will get us moving forward so that we can eventually be back as a unified school when it looks appropriate to do so.

In Christ,  
*Crystal Blahnik*  
Crystal Blahnik  
School Principal

*Please take some time to look through the attachments as they will give you more details and hopefully more clarification as to how this will work.*

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
A	 school synchronous	 home asynchronous	 school synchronous	 home asynchronous	 <b>ALL STUDENTS VIRTUAL 8:30-11:30</b>
B	 home asynchronous	 school synchronous	 home asynchronous	 school synchronous	

**KEY**



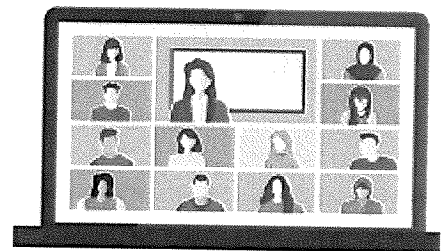
**School**

Live, teacher-directed instruction or activities



**Home**

Independently completing assignments or watching pre-recorded instruction



**Whole Class Remote**

Intended to be used for projects, community building, read alouds, etc.



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### Q/A

## November 2nd, Start Date

### Why are we returning when the community numbers are still so high?

We know that in person learning is best for our students. Splitting homerooms into A/B days allows us to be even safer than we already were. It ensures more than 6 feet between students in class and lunchroom and it allows children to have in person learning with her classroom teachers. We think this provides the best of both worlds for the time being.

### A/B Days? Won't we lose ½ of our learning time?

Teachers will be working with their schedules to maximize the face to face time with their children. Face-to-face will be used for instruction giving, assessments, introduction of new content and directions for independent learning that will take place on "at home" days.

Asynchronous days will be used for further application of learning and providing times for children to really dig into writing projects, hands-on science projects and even simulations or exploratory activities that they can do on their own or with minimal assistance from family.

### What will Friday's be like?

Fridays will be "whole class" virtual community building. There will be a series of synchronous, online community building activities for classes to participate in together. This will take place between the hours of 8:30-11:30 on Friday mornings.

### What type of technology will my students have access to at home and at school?

The 3rd-8th grade students will keep the Chromebooks they are currently using. The 1st-2nd grade students will have access to a school tablet. Kindergarten students will not have school-issued technology.

### How will Specials Classes work?

Specials that were meeting 4 days p/week will now meet 2 days per week.

Specials that were meeting 2 days p/week will now meet 1 day per week.

**IMPORTANT:** Students will be assigned asynchronous day work for Art, Spanish, Music.

### What about intervention, speech/language, itinerant SPED and Title I?

Students will continue with their support services. These will be either virtually or face to face. Teachers are working together on how these services will be scheduled.



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**What if we are not ready to return to Face to Face Learning?**

Families currently have a choice about returning to F2F learning. Please let your homeroom teacher know what you will be choosing. We will work to accommodate families who choose to remain virtual until November 25th, 2020. This is when the trimester changes and families will be able to opt into the Virtual Academy for the longer-term, virtual experience.

Please be aware that it is very challenging on our teacher to manage virtual students AND the students who are in front of them live. This is the main reason that families will not be able to remain virtual-only here at SBS, past Nov. 25th. We will do our best to get you from Nov. 2nd -Nov. 25th if you choose to remain online, but it will not be an experience on par with the A/B day experience that we will be looking to provide school-wide.

**My family relies on another SBS family for childcare.**

Please contact Mrs. Blahnik, Mrs. Thomas or Ms. Tilleman directly with any questions or concerns in relation to A/B schedules.

**How long will this schedule last?**

We are putting out a schedule for the month of November using this approach. That being said, we will be reviewing this plan every two weeks.

**When will I know which days my children will be attending face to face?**

Families will be alerted to their specific A or B days late Monday, Oct. 26 or early Tuesday, Oct. 27th. You can expect to get this information directly from your homeroom teacher.

**Why don't I get to choose which day my child attends F2F?**

We have a lot of considerations to make in the placement of students onto the A/B schedule. Here are some of the main considerations: families with more than one child, children who participate in intervention groups with other students, families who have PK students in the M/W/F or T/TH programs, student needs, etc.

**SAC Dress Down Tickets for Each Week and T-Shirt Tuesdays**

Mondays (A) and Tuesdays (B) = Purchased SAC Dress Down Day

Wednesday (A) and Thursdays (B) = "T-shirt Tuesday"

**SAC Dress Down Tickets for One Day p/month**

If you simply purchased the initial Dress Down Day for each month, students can dress down on the 2nd Monday/Tuesday of the month.



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**NOVEMBER CALENDAR**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 - A	3 - B	4 - A	5 - B	6 - A/B Virtual (AM)
9 - A	10 - B	11 - A	12 - B	13-A/B Virtual (AM)
16 - A	17 - B	18 - A	19 - B	20 -No Classes
23 - A	24 - B	25- A/B VIRTUAL (AM)	26 - No Classes	27 - No Classes
30 -VIRTUAL	1-VIRTUAL	2-VIRTUAL	3-VIRTUAL	4-VIRTUAL