



BELMONT

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Hello Parents and Welcome to the 20-21 School Year at Belmont Elementary!

I know that this is a challenging time for all of us but I wanted to assure you that whether you chose e-learning or face to face our teachers and staff are ready to serve your children and we are all looking forward to getting back into the classroom! I have put together this letter to try and answer some of the questions you may have and to tell you how some things will look this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. This letter is divided into three different parts. In the first section you will find general information that everyone needs to know regardless of the learning structure you chose for your child. The second section is specific to families that chose e-learning and the third section pertains to face to face.

Part 1 – Information for everyone!

- 1) **Meet and Greet:** Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions we are unable to do a face to face Meet and Greet. However, our teachers are working hard to design a virtual Meet and Greet that will answer the majority of your questions. We will send home a link on Parent-link, the Belmont HCPS website, and our Facebook page. Our virtual Open House will be Thursday, August 20th from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Your child's teacher will reach out to you soon to give you access information.
- 2) **First day of school:** The first day of school will be Monday, August 24th for both e-learning and face to face. However, for the first week all classes will use the e-learning format. We will not be giving out devices to students who are planning on attending face to face so we will be very flexible that first week. It will primarily be a "get-to-know you" week for our face to face students and our teachers will reach out via phone if you do not have a computer or internet for your child to use. As long as we are able to make contact with you or your child, your child will be counted as present for that first week.
- 3) **Visitors:** Visitors on campus will be very limited. However, our office is open from 7:10-4:00 every day and you can call us at (813)378-8001 with any questions or concerns you have. To visit on campus, you must make an appointment 24 hours in advance. Thank you for your cooperation.

Part 2 – Information for E-Learning:

- 1) **Homeroom Assignments:** All virtual students will be assigned to a virtual homeroom teacher who will be your major point of contact during the semester. Your child will also receive virtual instruction from our specialists in Art, Music and PE.
- 2) **Lunch:** Our school will serve a grab and go lunch to all enrolled e-learning students. Pick up will be on the bus ramp located at the back of the school from 9:30-10:30. We are only allowed to serve students who attend Hillsborough County Schools and have

been assigned to our school. Also, you must have the child's student number to pick up lunch. Unlike the summer, the normal lunch charge of \$2.25 will apply unless your child receives free or reduced lunch.

- 3) **E-learning Structure:** The E-learning design will be very different than the emergency e-learning program that was in place last fall. There will be clear, assigned times for students to check in. Assignments will be required and graded, and e-learning students will be held to the same standards as other students who attend face-to-face classes. The e-learning schedule is designed to mirror a six-hour classroom day and your child must log onto the computer at various points during the day in order to be counted as present. Virtual lessons scheduled for specific times are combined with scheduled time periods for students to complete assigned work independently. If your child is not able to log in at the assigned times your child will be marked absent. In addition, if they are not able to complete and turn in assignments it will adversely affect their grade. If you have concerns about your child being able to log in at various points during the day or complete assignments independently, you may want to consider different options. Please feel free to call our office to discuss it with us.
- 4) **Materials:** Each child in the e-learning program will receive all of their textbooks and a device, if needed.
- 5) **Device/Material Pick up:** We have scheduled device and textbook pick up for all of our e-learning students on Wednesday, August 19th and Thursday, August 20th. Families with last names starting with A-L should come the 19th between 2-3 pm and the 20th between 9-10 am. Families with last names starting with M-Z should come the 19th between 3-4 pm and the 20th between 10-11 am. Only persons on the emergency card will be allowed to pick up a device unless a call prior to pick up is made providing permission for another person to pick up. Please have proper identification and a pen for filling out paperwork when you come.

Part 3 – Information for Face to Face:

- 1) **Parent visitation:** As noted previously parent visitation on campus will be very limited due to COVID-19. Parents will no longer be allowed to walk students to class. I know this will be difficult, but I assure you that our staff will take very good care of your children and we have planned to have extra adult supervision on campus to help on the first few days.
- 2) **AM Student Drop off (K-5 Students):** The drop off time will be from 7:10-7:40 in the front of the school for all K-5 students only (See next section for Peeps, VPK and Access student info). **Parents are not allowed to park and walk their child up to the school or to class. Parents, you must remain in the car at all times.**
- 3) **AM Student Drop off (Peeps, VPK and Access Students):** Due to their age and accommodations, Peeps, VPK, and Access students will drop off in the morning at the bus ramp starting at 7:10-7:40. A teacher or paraprofessional will be at the door to receive your student and provide supervision. This should allow a little more time for our students to exit the vehicles and provide necessary assistance, where needed.
- 4) **PM Student Pick up All Students:** Afternoon pick up is in the car loop in the front of the school for all students after the walkers and bike riders have left the school. Generally, on the first few days of school this is around 2:15. After the first week, it usually drops back to 2:05-2:15. **As in the morning, parents must remain in their cars and go through**

the pick-up line to get their child. No one can walk up and pick up their child during active dismissal. If you wish to pick up your child early, you must sign your student out through the office prior to 1:30 Tuesday through Friday and prior to 12:30 on Mondays.

If you are picking your child up early, please walk up and buzz the main office. We will bring the sign out to you and ask you to wait outside while we get your child from class.

- 5) **Walkers and Bike Riders**-Walking and bike riding students will follow the sidewalk that leads into the campus on the north entrance of the roadway to enter and exit building. Just a reminder that bike riders need to have a helmet to ride their bike. **We will only allow a student with a Belmont subdivision address to be a walker or bike rider. Please do not park your car in the subdivision and pick up your child.** The line will move smoothly and safely if we all follow the guidelines.
- 6) **Breakfast & Lunch**: We will serve breakfast in the morning from 7:10-7:40 at no charge to students. The cost of lunch is \$2.25, and you may pay in advance online at www.mypaymentsplus.com. You will need your child's student number when you pay online. For the first three weeks of school we will not be offering a snack option with lunch. After that point we will introduce a limited menu of one different snack each day. **New this year, parents and guests are not allowed to eat either breakfast or lunch with their children.** There can be no exceptions to this rule as it is a district mandate. Also, parents, if your child brings lunch from home please make sure they are able to open the packages and items you send.
- 7) **Volunteers**: We love our volunteers and still need your help but right now volunteering will look different. While volunteers are not allowed on campus this year, we have many things you can do to help from home. Please contact your child's teacher to determine how you can help.
- 8) **Masks**: All students, staff members and visitors on campus are required to wear a mask. There will be some exceptions. Students can take off masks during PE, at lunch and recess, where social distancing can be safely maintained. Please help your child understand why this is so important. Students may wear masks from home, or we will give them one from school. Masks worn from home must meet the county's dress code rules. Students may wear a shield but it must be worn with a mask.
- 9) **Water Fountains and personal supplies**: Our water fountains will not be available. Therefore, we are asking each student to bring a water bottle from home to drink during the day. Also, students should have a pouch or pencil box where they can keep all of their daily supplies as they will not be allowed to share supplies in the classroom.
- 10) **Safety Procedures**: There will be many safety procedures that we will use in the classroom and around school. This will include frequent handwashing, cleaning desks, walking in straight lines with hands to themselves, and social distancing whenever possible. Please spend a few minutes with your child to discuss how things may look different and why it is important that they follow the expectations.
- 11) **Movement**: Movement around the school will be limited. However, movement between some classes and specials will occur. All students and staff will follow established safety guidelines for movement which will include cleaning desks between student use. Students will be asked to help with this cleaning process.

- 12) **The Clinic**: We have established a separate clinic room which will be used for students with a fever or any flu like/COVID symptoms. Parents will be contacted immediately, and we ask that you pick up your child asap if they display these types of symptoms.
- 13) **Home Check**: Please check in with your child every morning before going to school and if they are running a fever or not feeling well, please keep them at home.
- 14) **Buses**: If your child rides a bus there will be very clear safety procedures in place and students must keep masks on while riding the bus. It will be very important for all students to follow bus rules like staying in their seat and keeping hands to themselves. Please speak with your child about the importance these rules play in their safety during the ride on the bus and in keeping safe from the COVID virus.
- 15) **Special Activities**. At this time, we will not be planning any special activities such as chorus performances, family nights or field trips. We are hopeful that this will change in time but for now we must follow the district guidelines and CDC recommendations.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this detailed explanation and please know we appreciate all of your support as we open this year. I hope that I have answered some of your questions but of course, you may have more. Please feel free to call our main office at (813) 378-8001 if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely yours,

Alan Black
Principal
Belmont Elementary School