

BAD AXE PUBLIC SCHOOLS REOPENING PLAN
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)
UPDATED 8/11/2020

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**Question:** Will my child be able to return to school?

**Answer:** It depends. Students will be able to attend school when our Region 4 (Saginaw Region) is designated in Phase 4, 5, or 6. If our Region is designated in Phase 1-3, then students will not be allowed to physically be at school and our virtual learning plan would be implemented.

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Question: What learning options are available for my child during Phase 4, 5, and 6?

Answer: In Phase 4 and 5, there are two options from which families can select. Option 1 will be face-to-face instruction for students and families five days a week. There will be compliance with the safety guidelines set by the state and our local health department. We recognize the need for some of our students and families in which an alternative educational offering is desired and even necessary. For those families, there will be Option 2 which is a virtual learning, online opportunity. Option 2 will include a blend of live virtual learning, recorded lessons, learning packets, and access to online curriculums that is overseen by Bad Axe teachers and staff. Both options will have the same consistent rigor, expectations, and pacing.

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**Question:** What if we want to change from one learning option to another?

**Answer:** These two options will be based on a 9-week marking period. A family may elect to change options at the end of the marking period. For example, a family selects option 2 to begin the school year. That student would be receiving virtual learning online for the first marking period. If over the first marking period the family determines that face-to-face instruction would better meet their needs, the student would then be able to receive face-to-face instruction for the second marking period.

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Question: How do I notify the school of the option our family chooses?

Answer: The week of August 3 information will be distributed through email, our School Messenger/Skylert system, as well as through our social media platforms on how families may enroll in option 2. The deadline for notifying the school has been extended to August 18.

Families will automatically be enrolled in Option 1 and will not need to notify the school if they choose option 1. We only need notification from families electing Option 2.

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**Question:** What happens if our region’s designation changes from one phase to another?

**Answer:** We have a robust plan that will allow us to transition quickly if our region’s designation changes from one phase to another. If that were to occur, we would provide instruction in the manner described above and we will be able to implement the safety requirements related to each of those phases.

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Question: We noticed other districts have learning opportunities through online schools or academies. Will Bad Axe Schools do the same?

Answer: Yes and we have. This would be the same as our Option 2 (Virtual Learning) opportunity for students. Our courses will be provided by our highly qualified staff and mentors to ensure learning goals are appropriate and expectations are the same level and rigor that students would receive if in the classroom for face-to-face instruction.

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**Question:** When will the school year start?

**Answer:** The school year is set to start September 8, 2020.

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Question: What happened to the original August 17 start date?

Answer: There were a number of factors involved in that decision, but the most important factor is the health and safety of all students and staff. That is why the district took the step to delay the start of the school year from August 17 to September 8. By doing so, this will give more time to ensure that we have all components in place in regard to safety, instruction, and other components of the school day no matter the phase in which we are in.

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**Question:** Where can I find more information about the school’s Reopening Plan?

**Answer:** Information can be found on the school’s website, [www.badaxeps.org](http://www.badaxeps.org). As new information is known, updates will be posted on the website.

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Question: What is the school using to help ensure the health and safety of students and staff?

Answer: The state of Michigan recently released the MI Safe Schools Roadmap which provides guidance on what schools must do in order to reopen. Within this Roadmap are required actions as well as recommendations about safety measures that we will and must follow. In addition, we continue to follow guidelines of the CDC and we are working with local health department officials.

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**Question:** Will my child be required to wear a mask?

**Answer:** The MI Safe Schools Roadmap provides the protocols that schools are to follow for each designated phase. As part of Phase 4, facial coverings must be worn for all staff and students when on a school bus, hallways, and indoor common areas. Facial coverings are also required for staff and students in grades 6-12 during the school day except during meals. Facial coverings are not required for students in Young 5's through 5th grade while in their self-contained classroom. The use of facial coverings may be waived for students with health conditions or other factors. In this situation, a student or adult will need to provide written documentation from a medical professional to the school for this exemption. In Phase 5, schools will have more flexibility in regards to the guidelines for reopening.

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Question: Will students in grades Young 5s to 5th grade be able to wear face masks in the classroom if they wish?

Answer: Yes. Any family/student who wants to wear a mask even if not a requirement due to their grade level or designated phase will be able to do so.

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**Question:** How will lunch time be handled?

**Answer:** This will depend on what Phase the region is designated as well as the school building. Social distancing is an important part of our safety procedures. We are working on utilizing our larger spaces (i.e. cafeterias, gymnasiums) in order to allow social distancing and protective barriers when feasible as well as staggering times to reduce the volume of students at one time. Classrooms will be utilized as necessary if additional social distancing is needed within a building.

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Question: If our region is in Phase 3, will meals be provided for students?

Answer: We plan to provide meals, both breakfast and lunch, for students if we are in Phase 3 similar to what the school did last spring.

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**Question:** Will there be extra-curricular activities and athletics?

**Answer:** We will follow the guidelines provided by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) in regards to our athletic teams and student-athletes. Extra-curricular activities may be allowed for those activities in which safety guidelines can be followed in order to help ensure the health and safety of students and advisors.

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Question: Will I be able to volunteer in my child's classroom?

Answer: It depends. If our region is in Phase 4, volunteers and other visitors will not be allowed into the school. Visitors will need to set up an appointment with the school official in which they need to discuss school matters with. There will also be health screening protocols in place for all visitors with appointments. In Phase 5, there will be more flexibility for volunteers and other visitors. Health screenings will still apply for visitors in Phase 5.

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**Question:** How will students who become ill during the day be handled?

**Answer:** School staff will monitor student health throughout the day including student temperatures and assessing their symptoms. School staff will quarantine in the designated areas as needed and a contact home will be made to have the student go home. Students who become ill will not be sent home on a school bus.

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Question: How will the district handle a situation if a student or adult is suspected or tests positive for Covid-19?

Answer: The District continues to work in partnership with the local health department and other medical professionals if a suspected or positive case became known. The actions the District would take will depend on a number of factors involved in that individual case. The steps may include, but not limited to notification to parents and staff, quarantine the individual or individuals involved, and assisting to identify close contacts. The decision to quarantine and/or closing an entire class, building, or even district will be on a case by case basis. Due to the complex nature of this type of situation, we refer you to the additional resource titled, **Process for a Covid-19 Case at School**, that is found on our website at www.badaxeps.org.

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**Question:** If a student needs to be quarantined for a length of time, will they be required to complete their coursework and would they have an option to receive online instruction?

**Answer:** This scenario would be dependent upon the specific circumstances and accommodations would be made between the school, teacher, and parent that best fits the

situation. In general, our normal policy and procedures on homework would be in effect. Students have the number of days absent plus another day to complete missing work due to absences. There could very likely be a situation in which flipping to virtual learning during this time would be beneficial if the student is able to participate and complete the work.

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Question: What measures is the school taking to ensure the buildings are cleaned and disinfected?

Answer: There will be a deep cleaning of all buildings and classrooms each night by the custodial staff. Electrostatic sprayers will be used in conjunction with recommended cleaning protocols. In addition, school staff will clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces (i.e. desks, door handles, tables) throughout the school day including in between class periods if applicable.

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**Question:** Are there other steps that the school has taken to provide a safe and healthy environment?

**Answer:** The MI Safe Schools Roadmap is very detailed on a wide range of safety procedures and protocols that the school is required to follow. Some additional examples include designation of entrance and exit doors to control the flow of student traffic, adding refillable water stations for students, touchless paper dispensers, hand sanitation stations, temperature screening equipment, and safety and educational signage throughout the school buildings.

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Question: How is the school implementing social distancing within the classroom?

Answer: The school is taking a number of steps in order to provide the best social distancing measures within our school. Classroom space will be utilized to spread out designated student work areas/desks. The District is removing non-essential classroom furniture in order to create more classroom space. Student desks/work areas will be set up in which they face the same direction within the classroom. The use of small work groups, although a valuable learning method, will not take place as it frequently requires working in close proximity to each other. In addition, it will be imperative for educating students on the importance and the health benefits for social distancing during these times with Covid-19. The District will also need the support of our school community i.e. parents, care givers, other adults to help reinforce the importance of social distancing.

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**Question:** How will classes such as Physical Education, Band, and Choir be handled?

**Answer:** Physical education, Band, and Choir classes will take place, however, there will likely need to be modifications made with instruction and student activities depending on the

designated phase, allowable space for social distancing, and even weather conditions. The outdoors will be utilized more than normal for these classes when possible as it allows for more social distancing.

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Question: Will my child be able to have field trips or annual trips to Chicago, Washington D.C., etc.?

Answer: Under Phase 4, field trips will not take place. If in Phase 5, trips will be determined on an individual basis and limited to local areas. Transportation guidelines such as facial coverings will need to be implemented. Trips that involve an overnight stay will likely not occur.

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**Question:** What steps does my child need to take if they ride Thumb Area Transit (TAT)?

**Answer:** We continue to partner with TAT and the safety procedures will be similar to regular school buses. This includes the implementation of facial coverings and sanitizing hands upon boarding the bus.

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