

## Co-Principals' Report to the BMU School Board October 7, 2020

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### **I. BMU Moves to Step 3:**

Vt. Education Secretary Dan French has announced that as of Saturday, September 26, 2020 all Vermont public schools will be moving to Step 3. The BMU Leadership Team (which included Kate Dunn) met on 9/23/2020 and based upon this decision, here are our guidelines/procedures for Step 3 *which will begin on Monday, 9/28/2020:*

**The Cafeteria** - We will continue with procedures as they are. The cafeteria will remain closed. Paraeducators may access the cafeteria to eat their lunches.

**Increase Pod Sizes** - Students in grades 3-8 will be allowed to change classes based upon the teacher's decision. If teachers opt to allow students to change classrooms, teachers will have to clean/disinfect desks/tables/materials in between classes.

**Unified Arts/Specials Classes** - UA/Specials classes will be held in their respective classrooms. Students will be allowed to transition to these classrooms. Teachers will need to clean/disinfect between classes. The Lockerrooms will not be used, except for the high school PE classes.

**Continue with Temperature Checks/Screenings** - BMU will continue with the bus monitors and the temperature checks both to get on the bus and here at the building. This procedure will not change. All of our morning/arrival procedures will remain in place. Our afternoon pickup/departure procedures will also remain in place.

**Athletics** - Let the games begin! Starting Saturday 9/26 high school sports can start to play games. Players and spectators must wear masks. Assistant Superintendent Bruce Williams has approved the use of 2-ply gaiters only outside during athletic events.

**Access to the Building** - Teachers and staff are able to remain in classrooms daily until 4:00pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The building remains closed on the weekends.

**Virtual Wednesdays and Remote Learning** - We are going to continue with virtual Wednesdays for all students to allow Daryl and his staff to continue with the deep cleanings. As an *option*, teachers who wish to teach from their

classrooms on Remote Wednesdays may do so. Please plan to be out of the building by 1:00pm to allow the custodial staff to complete their deep cleaning.

**We are not going to do a blanket recall of remote/hybrid learning.** However, on a case - by - case basis, the option to do remote learning may be revoked. There are a few high school students and a couple of middle school students whose remote learning options are being revoked due to attendance/truancy issues. Those teachers that need to be informed of such decisions will be vs. sending out a generalized list (to protect the FERPA and confidentiality rights of the specific students).

**Attendance Procedures** - All current attendance procedures (Infinite Campus and the daily Google attendance sheet) will remain in place.

**Senior Lounge** - Dr. Barone would like to meet with the Senior Class Advisor and the officers of the senior class to talk about re-opening the Senior Lounge and what the COVID-19 guidelines will be. Seniors will be asked to put together a proposal, including COVID-19 procedures, which will have to be vetted through Mrs. Dunn as our School Nurse/COVID-19 Coordinator.

**Masks** - The mask requirement for staff and students does not change in step 3. We understand this has been a learning curve for everyone, but intentionally making the decision to not wear a mask inside the building when not by yourself in your office or classroom, is unacceptable. Additionally, as a point of clarification, family members in the same room should also be masked at all times. We fully support mask breaks when being outside AND when social distancing can be maintained. We appreciate your help and support to keep us all safe throughout this state of emergency.

## **II. PSATs:**

The PSATs are being administered here at BMU on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 starting at 8:00am. The PSATs will be held in the gymnasium. All COVID-19 safety protocols will be in place (6 feet separation of students, the

wearing of masks, disinfecting all materials, etc.). Because this is a Wednesday, students will have to arrange their own transportation to and from school on this date. The PSAT is open to sophomore and juniors. We have a capacity of 25 students. As of 9/28/2020 there are 19 students signed up. The assessment is free this year thanks to BMU's participation in the VSAC Grant.

### **III. ASVAB Assessment:**

The ASVAB is being administered here at BMU on Tuesday, November 10, 2020. The assessment will be administered by current military personnel. All sophomores will participate in the administration. We will also open this up to any interested juniors and seniors. The ASVAB will be administered in the cafeteria as students have

1:1 technology.

### **IV. BMU Curriculum, Syllabi, & Content Maps:**

BMU's K-12 Curricular Frameworks, 2020-2021 content maps and middle/high school syllabi are available for public viewing. If you go to the BMU website (<https://www.bmuschool.org/>) and then under the "Quick Links" tab, you will see a tab for the "BMU Curriculum". Once you click on this tab, you can have access to the school board approved K-12 Curricular Frameworks and all of the 2020-2021 content maps and syllabi (for the middle and high school classes). We are in the process of adding content maps for the elementary teachers. A special "Thank you" to John Munson for getting this set up.

### **V. Staffing Updates:**

As of 9/28/2020 the following new staff have been hired at BMU:

- Amber Tatro - as a long term substitute paraprofessional in the elementary school. This position is due to a maternity leave.
- Hannah Dube - as a long term substitute paraprofessional in the middle school. This position is due to the paraprofessional who is normally in this position covering for a middle school teacher on leave.
- Sara Silva - as another building based substitute and to provide assistance to our school nurse.

## **VI. STAR Reading & STAR Math:**

The STAR Reading and STAR Math assessments are underway. Students in grades 3 through 8 are taking these assessments as part of our fall local assessment plan. A local assessment report (which will include the POA results for grades K-2) will be shared with the Board in November.

## **VII. Afternoon Pick-Up Procedures:**

We have made some minor adjustments to the afternoon pick up procedures to improve the flow of traffic. We continue to monitor and review the process and make improvements. Here are our most recent procedural changes:

1. Ideally, all students riding the bus in grades K-4 will have loaded buses by 2:20.
2. Grade 5 should load buses at 2:22.
3. Grade 6 should load buses at 2:24.
4. Grades 7 -12 will be dismissed for buses when the bell rings at 2:25.
5. In a perfect world, buses are departing by 2:28.
6. John and Scott sent reminders to parents about this procedure, including:
  - a. No passing! Vehicles will need to stay in a single file line.
  - b. When picking children up prior to the end of the day, parents must park and walk to the carport to pick up their child.
  - c. Please use a number card that was issued by the school.

## **VIII. School Report Night:**

Because BMU received federal funding through the Consolidated Federal Grants Program (Titles I and IIA) we are required to annually host a School Report Night, which includes information about how we spend Title I money.

Last year we were given a waiver because of the COVID-19 nationwide shutdown of schools. This year there is no waiver. However, with the COVID-19 restrictions, our School Report Night will be done virtually - through an informational video which is being produced through BMU's Broadcast Journalism class. The video will include an introduction by the co-principals, each teacher giving an academic overview of their classes, an overview of our

School Improvement/Continuous Improvement Plan, a student services overview (special education and guidance), Nicole Bell will give an overview of how BMU spends Title I dollars, and then a conclusion. We will let the board know when the video is ready for viewing.