

Botelle Reopening Plan

July 24, 2020

The Reopening Plan was developed according to detailed guidance from the Connecticut State Department of Education. It reflects the most current information and is subject to revision based on changes in the pandemic situation and recommendations from the state and local health departments. The full Reopening Plan will be posted on the Botelle website.

At a glance, this is what families and staff can expect when school starts this fall:

The School Day

Botelle will reopen this fall, and all students are encouraged to return to school full time. The calendar has been modified to provide additional professional development days for staff to facilitate a safe and comfortable transition back to school.

Students will begin school on Wednesday, September 2. They will be dismissed at 1:00 pm for the first three days so that staff can assess the re-entry plan and address any areas of concern. **After Labor Day, the school day will end at 3:00 pm.**

Students will, to the degree possible, remain with the same group, and travel throughout the building will be minimized. Art, Music, and Library/Media teachers will travel to classrooms. Additional lunch waves will be added to accommodate cohorts with time built in for thorough cleaning between each wave. Bathrooms will be designated to specific cohorts.

The Bus

Buses will run as usual, however, students will follow new procedures:

- All students will be required to wear a face mask during transit and prior to boarding the bus.
- Students will fill the bus from the back row forward (the first passengers onto the bus sit in the back row) and then exit the bus one row at a time, from front to back.
- Staff members will greet and monitor students as they get off the bus, and then assist them at the end of the day. Students will board in reverse order, beginning with students who are dropped off last.

Busses will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after each run.

Masks

Students are required to wear masks or cloth face covering that completely covers the nose and mouth.

Mask breaks will be built into the day. Students will be able to go outside and spend short periods of time in designated, socially distant spaces.

Recess will be staggered and activities will be planned to allow for temporary mask removal.

Distance Learning Option

Students who temporarily opt out of in-person instruction can participate remotely.

- Students will be given a device (iPad or Chromebook) for use at home.
- Assignments, with learning targets and success criteria, will be posted each morning.
- Teachers will use various technology, including live streaming, to enable remote learners to tune into morning meeting and whole group lessons. Daily schedules will be available prior to the first day of school.
- The expectation is that an adult in the home will facilitate and monitor engagement. Parents will be asked to sign an agreement which specifies expectations for remote participation.
- Between 3:00 and 3:30 pm each day, teachers will check in with remote learners to clarify instruction, address questions or concerns, and provide feedback on student work.

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Communication

Any need to cancel classes and/or other critical news will be communicated via BlackBoard (formerly Alert Now) messages and website postings.

Regular open discussion sessions with Principal Valentino and Superintendent Iacobelli will be held via Zoom.

In addition, School Psychologist Chabot will hold regular office hours via Zoom that are open to all students and parents.

The Botelle website will provide access to all up-to-date information.

Cleaning/Sanitation

Water fountains will not be used for drinking, but a new water bottle filling station has been installed.

The cafeteria will be cleaned between each lunch wave. Bathrooms, classrooms, and other shared spaces will be cleaned throughout the day, and will be thoroughly disinfected each evening.

Illness

Please do not send sick students into school. Now more than ever, it's important that we safeguard each other's health.

The school nurse will serve as the designated COVID-19 Health and Safety Compliance Liaison, and can be used as a resource for questions regarding COVID-19 concerns.

A checklist for self-assessment will be provided to staff members and families. Staff and parents of students are required to inform the school if they are sick with COVID-19 related symptoms. We will implement protocols for information reporting to the school nurse who will safeguard this information.

In the event of a positive case at Botelle, it may be necessary to transition to remote learning so that we can complete an investigation/contact tracing.

Prepared for Changes

Our goal is to safely maintain in-person learning for as many staff and students as possible. To support safety and flexibility, **students will take their device home each day** so that it is available for distance learning in the event that a partial or full closure is required.

- If we are required to reduce the number of students in the building, primary grades will receive in-person instruction and the distance learning plan will be implemented for intermediate students.
- If partial closure is required due to an exposure, cohorts affected will transition to the distance learning plan.
- If a full school closure is required, the full distance learning plan will be implemented.
- If school is closed because of inclement weather, distance learning can be implemented so that make up days will not have to be added to the end of the year.

