

Hello Cocoa Beach Families,

I want to thank everyone for their patience and understanding up to this point as we opened school in a very different and challenging format. And, I am going to ask for a little more patience and understanding as we go. This is the 28th time I have been a part of a school year opening, and this one has been the most difficult by far. I have never seen a staff work harder to try and put it all together in such unique circumstances. Here are a few items that we are still working through, and this is where we will all need to exercise more patience and understanding.

eLearning

All of our teachers have been developing web pages and classroom sites so that that the eLearners can access classes and participate in real time. But today there were failures with the Zoom platform and some other log in and access issues. We believe the Zoom failures have been corrected and we have figured out any other glitches. If you are having difficulties, there are directions and videos on our website, and you can always contact us. We do want to ensure that our eLearners are receiving instruction immediately and not falling behind.

Master Schedule

The transition to the 4x4 Block schedule has been difficult, and we are continuing to work to ensure that each student has the best set of courses possible. Each tweak to the schedule causes a ripple effect and so each situation has to be handled individually and does take a bit of time. Another factor that is making this more complicated is that we have added more students to our rolls in the last few weeks. For example, our 7th grade class is much larger than our Spring projection, so we are working hard to get everyone in classes that make sense.

Substitute Teachers

Over the last 2 weeks we have had several teachers decide not to return to the classroom this year. So several of our classrooms will have for the first few days of school. We have plans for each of those classes and we are working to hire new teachers as quickly as we can. In full disclosure I wanted you to know that we have some subs. So if your son or daughter said "We had a substitute today," that will be true in a handful of classes.

I am exhausted after a hectic first day. But it was certainly refreshing to have students in the building and roaming the halls. I know that we are going to have to overcome some immediate challenges and not only the first day or two. Please know that we care a great deal about the young people in our charge and that we will do everything we can to provide them with a safe, and meaningful school experience.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Mark J. Rendell

rendell.mark@brevardschools.org