

Welcome to the 2020-2021 School Year!



Welcome back Panthers! We are excited to start the 2020-2021 school year, and we know this year will be different. Our teachers and staff have spent weeks preparing for the arrival of students and eLearners. We are ready to provide exceptional education for our students – which is what makes us the best in Palm Bay. There are several changes this year due to COVID-19, and we feel it is important for our families to know prior to the first day. Please review the information in this letter and contact us if you have any questions.

Block Scheduling

The Brevard County School Board voted to change all secondary schools to a block schedule for the 2020-2021 school year for health and safety reasons related to COVID-19. Block scheduling reduces the number of courses students have on campus each day and the number of students they will interact with in their classes. Students will take four courses first semester and four courses second semester. In a block format each year long course, such as English or math, will be completed over the course of one semester. Courses that would normally last a semester will be completed over the course of nine weeks.

Attendance

Attendance rules are slightly different with a block schedule. Students in Brevard Public Schools are allowed four unexcused absences per nine weeks under district attendance guidelines for year-long classes on a block schedule. Unexcused absences in excess of allowances may result in a student failing a course due to attendance (FA) regardless of their grades in the course. An FA results in the loss of a credit for the course as well. Families should take care to monitor student absences and submit documentation to our Attendance Office when students miss school. Notes related to a doctor's visit, approved religious activity, court date, or for pre-approved chronic illness are NOT counted as unexcused absences. All other absences are considered unexcused. We provide an opportunity for students to appeal these district guidelines for good cause at the end of each semester. To contact our Attendance Office, please call 321-722-4178, ext. 29009.

Health and Safety Changes on Campus Due to COVID-19

Face Coverings: The Brevard County School Board voted to mandate face coverings for all students and staff. This means that students are **required** to wear a face covering in order to attend classes on campus and keep it on throughout the school day with the exception of lunch. Students may remove their face covering while they are eating. Any students who refuses to wear a face covering on campus will be disciplined under the BPS Discipline Plan for a dress code violation. **Be advised that students who continuously violate the face covering mandate may be withdrawn from live campus instruction on the third offense and referred to our eLearning program.**

Our teachers, staff, administrators, and students will wear face coverings in classrooms, common areas, and the cafeteria when social distancing is not possible.

Class Changes: Transition time between classes is five minutes. We ask that students observe social distancing during class changes and avoid congregating. We also have signs indicating one-way paths, please adhere to the signs so class change can go smoothly.

Cafeteria Operations: We will have three lunch periods with time in between to properly sanitize the cafeteria. Students will be allowed to eat their lunch in the cafeteria or our outdoor patio area (we have installed more tables). We plan to make announcements periodically throughout the lunches to remind students to adhere to social distancing during lunch.

We recommend that families utilize www.mypaymentsplus.com to add money to their child's lunch account. It is a free, convenient service that will improve the safety of our cafeteria lines by reducing the exchange of cash and coins among students.

If your child is eLearning, meals will be available for pick-up each school day. Curbside Pick-Up will be available between 10:00am and 10:30am in the bus loop. Breakfast is free for all students, and lunch is based on your child's eligibility (free, reduced). There will be no cash accepted in the Curbside Pick-Up line, so please prepay for meals at www.mypaymentsplus.com. Parents can pick-up meals without their child being present as long as they provide a form of their child's ID at the time of pick-up.

For questions about cafeteria operations, please contact our cafeteria manager, Kim Burke at 321-722-4178 ext. 29020.

Water Fountains: Most water fountains will not be available during the school day in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19. For that reason, we strongly encourage students to bring their own refillable water bottles to school each day so they can stay hydrated.

Hall Lockers: We will not have lockers available for use.

Hand Sanitizer: All classrooms will have hand sanitizer available for student use. Teachers will ask students to sanitize their hands upon entry into the classroom. We strongly recommend that students carry hand sanitizer in their backpack or purse as an additional layer of protection. The cafeteria will have hand sanitizer for student use prior to eating lunch.

eLearning Program: Heritage High Students have the option of participating in an eLearner program this year. eLearning allows students to take their courses from home and stay connected with their teachers through virtual platforms.

Clinic Policy

It is very important that families not send students to school sick. There are symptoms common between the seasonal flu, the common cold, and COVID-19. We do not have the ability to differentiate between these illnesses on campus. Students exhibiting the symptoms of COVID-19, including temperature, will be isolated in our school clinic. We do not have the space or resources to keep multiple students in isolation at the same time. **Therefore, students with COVID-19 symptoms will be required to leave campus as quickly as possible.** Our school nurse will contact families immediately to pick up their child. Please ensure that an

adult on your official school pick up list is always available to report to campus. Photo ID is required to pick up a child from school.

Visitor Policy

The Reopen Plan approved by the Brevard County School Board placed restrictions on visitor access to campus due to COVID-19. Until further notice, visitors are limited to the following situations:

- Families registering students for school (two family members allowed at a time in the office, masks are required, please adhere to social distancing)
- Attending meetings at the request of school officials
- Checking students in or out of school
- Families may **NOT** drop off items for students that are not medically or academically required

Photo ID is required to access campus or check students out of school.

Visitors to campus are required to wear face coverings at all times. Due to space limitations, only two family members at a time will be allowed in our Attendance Office.

LaunchPad and FOCUS Log-ins

Students must log into Launchpad to access their FOCUS accounts.

- Launchpad is found on the Heritage website Teal Globe at top of page
- Parent may use phone to access Launchpad. Top left there are 3 lines. Click on lines, scroll down and select Global Icons, Select Launchpad
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*Launchpad Logins are Student#@brevardschools.org. Passwords: (2 choices) same as last year **OR** *password1*.

*If Launchpad is locked out or password has been forgotten have them use the reset form - <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=LGaFrd9pioiFpI7ChwIywMFSCC8fPNBNrnc9N35Qs49UODIIRDhHVjNBSINBSkxDSIRETUINMVGyRC4u>

*Parents need their student PIN Letter to access their student's FOCUS account.

*For bus information, in FOCUS under “Student Information” – bus routes will be under “Transportation”

Please check our website for the latest information. As procedures evolve and as the year progresses, we want to keep you updated. Any new information will be posted to our website in the “Featured Stories” section of our front page. Sometimes, you may have to use the arrows to make sure you have reviewed updates. We hope for our webpage to be a one-stop place for all BPS and HHS updates. We are in this together!