July 20, 2020

Dear Bulldog Families,

We hope your family is having a safe and enjoyable summer. The start of the 2020-21 school year is rapidly approaching and your family may have questions about the available options for school enrollment. The Brevard County School Board approved a re-opening plan on July 14 that presented several options for secondary students. Please review the enrollment options below and contact us if you have questions.

To help us prepare for the upcoming year we ask you to read this letter thoroughly, click the video link below for more detailed information, and take the survey linked at the bottom of this letter. We ask every Melbourne High family to take this survey one time by Friday, July 24 so that we can prepare for our students’ needs for the upcoming school year.

Video Link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ogEWBIdKREPe_zCXIebgpaNDDaB3QykC/view?usp=sharing

Melbourne High School will be on a block schedule for the 2020-21 school year. Students will take four, 90-minute classes in the fall, and four 90-minute classes in the spring. We will utilize students’ course request cards to determine the eighth class for their schedule. In a block schedule, yearlong courses are completed in one semester (similar to college) to earn one full credit; semester-long courses are completed in 9 weeks to earn 0.5 credit for the course.

Full-Time Enrollment Options:

1. **Full-time live instruction at Melbourne High School**: Students will be scheduled in four courses on our campus for the fall semester and four courses for the spring semester.
2. **Full-time Brevard Virtual School (BVS)**: Students will be withdrawn from Melbourne High and enrolled in Brevard Virtual School. Courses will be taught by Brevard teachers using the Florida Virtual School curriculum. BVS courses are taught in an asynchronous environment so students can work at their own pace when and how it is best for them. Course credits transfer easily if/when the student wishes to return to Melbourne High.
3. **Full-time E-Learning**: Students will be enrolled at Melbourne High and scheduled for four courses in the fall and four courses in the spring with our teachers. Students will access the course materials from home at the same time the course is taught live on campus, so this option is less flexible than Brevard Virtual School. However, students enjoy continuity with their Melbourne High teachers when/if they decide to return to campus full-time. Some E-Learning activities may require students to complete the task in person from time to time, particularly in elective courses that have hands-on components.
4. **Full-time dual enrollment with Eastern Florida State College (EFSC)**: This option is available for students who meet the qualifications for dual enrollment at EFSC. Please contact our guidance office for more information.

Part-Time Enrollment Options: Please note that mid-day transportation will NOT be provided by the school district.
1. **Part-time live instruction at Melbourne High and part-time instruction in either BVS or ELearning**: Students will enroll in a combination of live, in person classes on campus and virtual instruction at home either through BVS or Melbourne High School’s E-Learning program.

2. **Part-time dual enrollment**: Students will take a combination of live, in person classes on campus and dual-enrollment classes at Eastern Florida State College.

Families must provide transportation during the day to accommodate their student’s schedule for all part-time enrollment options. Students may not remain on campus during times they are not scheduled for live, in person instruction at Melbourne High.

You can reach our staff at 321-952-5880 if you would like to discuss any of these enrollment options. We understand that every family’s situation is unique and we are ready to help you determine the best enrollment option for your student.

**School Enrollment Survey Link:**

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeCLgESQks7vpYvMwnnUs-Yk0HLWISFrtObNime6aHbPLxE8Q/viewform

Respectfully,

Dr. Chad Kirk
Principal
Melbourne High School
Why are middle and high schools in the school district adopting a block schedule this year?
The biggest single reason is safety for both students and teachers. When compared with the traditional seven period schedule used in Brevard County the block schedule reduces the overall exposure of teachers, staff, and students to each other. Students take fewer classes each day, have fewer transitions between those classes, and see fewer staff members on a block schedule.

How does a block schedule differ from the traditional seven period schedule? In a block schedule, students take four 90-minute periods (blocks) each semester. This means that students will take eight courses over the course of the entire school year versus seven courses on our traditional schedule. The eighth course in the block schedule will come from an alternate course listed on the student’s course request card that was completed last spring. In some cases, students will be assigned their eighth course based on availability.

How do I notify the school about which enrollment option I want? Take the survey linked here to indicate your enrollment preference for each child for the upcoming school year: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeCLgESQks7vpYvMwnnUs-Yk0HLWISFrhObNime6aHbPLxE8Q/viewform

Do I have to withdraw my child from Melbourne High if I select full-time Brevard Virtual School? Yes, Brevard Virtual is a public school within our school district just like any other Brevard public school. Students choosing to take classes full-time with BVS will withdraw from Mel Hi and enroll with Brevard Virtual. You can find answers to many BVS questions by clicking here: https://www.brevardschools.org/Page/16958

Does Brevard Virtual have an enrollment deadline? Yes, students wishing to enroll in fulltime Brevard Virtual School must enroll by July 31.

Do e-learning classes at Mel Hi meet at a particular time? Yes, e-learning classes are time certain. They are taught by Mel Hi teachers at the time the course is shown on the student’s schedule. Students in e-learning courses must log into FOCUS at the time the class begins just as if they were reporting to the classroom on campus.

How does full-time e-learning work? Students are enrolled full-time as Melbourne High School students. They receive a course schedule as if they are going to attend classes live on our campus. Instead, they work from home and log into their courses at the times the courses meet on campus. Students will have daily interaction and instruction with their Mel Hi teachers. This full-time e-learning option means that students will take all four classes from home during the semester.
Can I switch from full or part-time e-learning to live instruction on campus? Yes, families can change their minds during the semester if they wish to return their student to campus. We will be flexible to help families, but you must notify us first. Contact your guidance counselor to arrange to have your student transition from e-learning to the live classroom. There will be no loss in instruction since the student will continue with the same teacher when he/she returns to campus.

How do I transition between part-time live instruction at Mel Hi and part-time e-learning from home? Families must consider their transportation situation to determine how appropriate this option is for their child. Since e-learning courses are time certain, families will need some transition time between their child’s last live course on campus and the start of their first e-learning course from home. Therefore, moving from live instruction on campus to e-learning at home (or visa versa) will depend on your student’s specific course schedule. Talk to your student’s guidance counselor to see if this option is viable.

How many part-time e-learning courses can I take? Students may take up to 3 e-learning courses per semester to be considered a part-time e-learning student. Four e-learning courses per semester is full-time.

Can a part-time Brevard Virtual School student take classes at Melbourne High? Yes, part-time BVS students can enroll in either live or e-learning courses at Melbourne High. A student would need to enroll in at least one course at Melbourne High.

Can a part-time Brevard Virtual School student take classes at Eastern Florida State College? Yes, as long as the student meets the enrollment requirements for Eastern Florida State College. Talk to your guidance counselor for more information.

How will I tell Melbourne High which classes I want to take as e-learning versus live instruction on campus? Once students receive their course schedule in August we will provide a process for students to indicate which courses they would like to take through e-learning. I want to take some of my classes through e-learning and some classes through Brevard Virtual.

How do I know which platform is best for me? The biggest difference between BVS and e-learning at Melbourne High is that BVS courses are asynchronous and can be taken at any time of the day whereas e-learning courses at Mel Hi are time certain and taught by Mel Hi teachers. If your student does not want to log into class at a particular time then Brevard Virtual may be for you.

Which courses are taught through e-learning at Melbourne High? Any course on Melbourne High’s campus may be taken through e-learning. Families should understand that instructors in certain courses may ask students to come to campus from time to time to complete
course activities that cannot be done at home.

**When will Melbourne High hold fall registration?** We are working to move fall registration online this year. More information will be sent to our families about fall registration in the very near future.