

# Belmont Public Schools Return-to-Learning Fall 2020

Belmont School Committee  
September 2, 2020

# Agenda

- ▶ General Update
  - ▶ Facilities
  - ▶ Athletics
  - ▶ Co- Curricular Groups
- ▶ Hybrid Learning Presentation
- ▶ Accelerated Timeline and Metrics
- ▶ Full Day Kindergarten Fee Elimination

# School Priorities

- ▶ Health and Safety
- ▶ Social Emotional Well-being
- ▶ Academic Engagement

# Update: Facilities Status

- ▶ Air Exchange Assessment (AEA) is underway
- ▶ We are working with a manufacturer to order 150 large and medium commercial grade air purification units ordered to support air exchange in classrooms
- ▶ The process will be conducted in partnership with the guidance from our Facilities Director and BALA, the company conducting our air exchange assessment
- ▶ All Facilities work and purchases will be reimbursed through federal grant funds

# Update: Athletics

- ▶ DESE and MIAA provided an update on high school athletics.
- ▶ Middlesex Superintendents and Athletic Directors held a meeting and discussed a league-wide response.
- ▶ The entire Middlesex League agrees to the following thus far:
  - ▶ The following sports will be assigned to the “floating” season (‘Fall 2’) in the spring:
    - ▶ Football and Competitive Cheerleading (per MIAA)
    - ▶ Swim and Volleyball (per Middlesex League)
  - ▶ The following fall programs will run with MIAA modifications:
    - ▶ Boys and Girls Soccer
    - ▶ Field Hockey
    - ▶ Cross Country
    - ▶ Golf
- ▶ *The School Committee will need to review and vote their approval of<sup>5</sup> this league agreement.*

# Co-Curricular Activities

- ▶ CMS and BHS:
  - ▶ We have reached out to all educators to put forward their proposals for implementing clubs, activities and co-curricular groups in remote and hybrid formats
  - ▶ Our goal is to provide our traditional after school opportunities to engage our students within our current circumstances
  - ▶ We are working with our after school providers to supplement our elementary offerings

# Hybrid Learning Models: Context

- Each level has prioritized instructional time with teachers and students.
- You will see that to increase instructional time we needed to decrease non-instructional time such as lunch.
- The overarching strength of the hybrid model is a return to some in-person education.
- The overarching liability is the decrease in instructional time (compared to remote) and the impact on progress and pacing of the curriculum.

# What would a hybrid schedule look like?

- ▶ Presentation tonight from Principals on the Hybrid Learning (Model & Schedule)
  - ▶ Elementary Presentation: Principals Danielle Betancourt, Heidi Paisner-Roffman, Seeley Okie and Anita Mecklenburg
  - ▶ Chenery Presentation: Principal Karla Koza
  - ▶ Belmont High School Presentation: Principal Isaac Taylor



# What is our rationale for moving to more in-person teaching and learning?

- ✓ Health Metrics: We are in good shape per DPH metrics
- ❑ Review of Air Exchange and Classroom Capacity: This work in process, with a report due on or around 9/11/2020
- ❑ Phased Approach: This additional time will give us a chance to closely observe the experiences of other districts related to opening school logistics and any resulting health impact to students and staff

# How are we accelerating the process?

- ▶ We heard:
  - ▶ “Can we get to the hybrid phase sooner?”
  - ▶ We have accelerated the timeline for advancing from one phase to the next.
- ▶ “Elementary students need to be with their teachers”
  - ▶ We are proposing a “**Bridge to Hybrid**” concept, which brings students in for academic conferencing, SEL, and will build individual and class relationships, as well as distributing materials.

# Phase 1.5: “Bridge to Hybrid”

- ▶ Everyone continues the remote model most of the time
- ▶ Cohorts come in once a week for in-person “touchpoints” to spend time with teachers and classmates.
  - ▶ Focus on SEL
  - ▶ Community Building
  - ▶ Providing Feedback on work from the week
- ▶ Grades K-2:
  - ▶ Cohort A comes in person Tuesdays 8:30-10:30am
  - ▶ Cohort B comes in person Thursdays 8:30-10:30am
- ▶ Grades 3-4:
  - ▶ Cohort A comes in person Tuesdays 12:30-2:30pm
  - ▶ Cohort B comes in person Thursdays 12:30-2:30pm


# Phase 1.5: "Bridge to Hybrid"

K-2	M	T	W	Th	F		
Morning 8:45-11:45	Everyone Remote Learning	A- In School (8:30-10:30)	B-At Home On Demand Learning & Practicing	Everyone Remote Learning	A-At Home On Demand Learning & Practicing	B-In School (8:30-10:30)	Everyone Remote Learning
Afternoon 12:30-2:50	Everyone Remote Learning						
3-4	M	T	W	Th	F		
Morning 8:45-11:45	Everyone Remote Learning						
Afternoon 12:30-2:50	Everyone Remote Learning	A- In School (12:30-2:30)	B-At Home On Demand Learning & Practicing	Everyone Remote Learning	A-At Home On Demand Learning & Practicing	B-In School (12:30-2:30)	Everyone Remote Learning

# Updated Accelerated Phased Plan with “Phase 1.5: Bridge to Hybrid”

Phase 1	Phase 1.5 “Bridge to Hybrid”	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
<i>Starting 9/16</i>	<i>Starting no sooner than 9/28</i>	<i>Starting no sooner than 10/12</i>	<i>Starting no sooner than 10/26</i>	<i>Full In-Person Learning</i>
	Two week cycle	Two week cycle	Two week cycle	
Advancement to next Phase contingent upon: 1. Board of Health approved Metrics review for each decision cycle 2. Review of Air Exchange Assessment to ensure the health of our spaces and the amount of classrooms available			<i>*Note: Phasing cycle was modified from a 3 week cycle to a 2 week cycle.</i>	

# Updated Accelerated Phased Plan with "Bridge to Hybrid Phase 1.5"

Phase 1	Phase 1.5 *	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
K-12 Remote Learning  # of students in-person learning: 155	* <b>Bridge to Hybrid</b>  # of students in-person learning will be an additional 1,709	Continued Remote  # of students in-person learning will be an additional 380	Full Hybrid  # of students in-person learning will be an additional 2,297	Full In-Person Learning
In-person for our high needs and complex students per DESE guidelines	Grades K-4 will provide scheduled In-person sessions while in a remote schedule. These sessions will be in classrooms with an in-person format, once per week to provide: 1. Small group and individual academic conferencing 2. SEL sessions 3. Student and class relationship building	In-person learning for next category of complex and high need students like: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Socio- economic /SEL / Academic students in need</li> <li>Families in unique circumstances</li> <li><del>Grades K and/or 1</del></li> </ul>	In-person and remote learning via hybrid schedule   <p><i>Grades K and/or 1</i> Given Phase 1.5 provides modified in-person to all K-4 students, we will move K /1 Hybrid to Phase 3 with all grades.</p>	Full student return with some restrictions
Total in-person: 155	Total in-person: 1,864	Total in-person: 2,244	Total in-person: 4,541	14

# Belmont and DESE Metrics

- ▶ Belmont is proposing to utilize the DESE metrics to support the decision making process for moving from one phase to the next.
- ▶ These metrics were reviewed and supported by Belmont Director of Public Health.
- ▶ Director of Belmont Board of Health Explored the “weighted average” of communities that employees reside in.
- ▶ The DPH Metric system with additional review of daily cases by Belmont DPH to support the decision making process.
- ▶ For the decision to move from Phase 1 to Phase 2 the School Committee, in collaboration with the Belmont Director of Health, will use these metrics to inform the status of moving to Phase 2.

# DESE's new color-coded metric from DPH / COVID-19 Command

## New color-coded metric\*



RED

Average daily cases per 100,000 is greater than 8



YELLOW

Average daily cases per 100,000 is between 4 - 8



GREEN

Average daily cases per 100,000 is less than 4



UNSHADED

## DESE expectation for learning model

Remote

Hybrid  
or  
Remote  
(if extenuating circumstances<sup>1</sup>)

Full-time in-person  
or  
Hybrid  
(if extenuating circumstances<sup>1</sup>)

<sup>1</sup>In Belmont's case the extenuating circumstances would be the status of our facilities.



# Identification of Plans

- ▶ Remote start for all BPS students
  - ▶ Presented last week
  - ▶ Will start for all students on September 16, 2020
  - ▶ Potential for elementary “Bridge” (Phase 1.5)
- ▶ Hybrid Plan
  - ▶ Hybrid option presented tonight
  - ▶ “Remote Only” when Hybrid (Phase 3) Starts
- ▶ “Remote Only”

# Remote Only: Phase 3 (when in Hybrid)

- ▶ We will assess the number of students who elect “remote only” option, as well as staff who need remote accommodation, before finalizing this model
- ▶ This process will drive our strategies and options for supporting simultaneous hybrid and “remote only” learning
- ▶ We will use existing BPS staff and newly hired BPS staff (if needed) to support our remote learners in Phase 3

# Remote Only Phase 3 (when in Hybrid)

## ▶ K-8

- ▶ We will seek to keep our remote only students attached to their school and/or class
- ▶ When hybrid students are in school, the district will provide core curriculum instruction to the “remote only” students online
- ▶ We will seek to have “remote only” students access non-core classes with their in-school peers

## ▶ High School

- ▶ We will use a combination of current BHS, newly hired BPS staff (if necessary), and live streaming to engage our “remote only” learners
- ▶ We will seek to minimize any limitations for “remote only” students’ access to the entire BHS Program of Studies

# What is next for families?

- ▶ An email will go out tomorrow for families to choose hybrid or “remote only” options for their child.
- ▶ This information is due September 17.
- ▶ Given that families may need more information before deciding, we will be providing a revised FAQ document this week and school-based forums next week.
- ▶ Principals will be sending out class lists and student schedules next week.

# What is next for School Committee

- ▶ The School Committee will discuss updated metrics process and accelerated timeline tonight.
- ▶ The School Committee will review MIAA information and schedule a vote for next meeting on fall athletics.
- ▶ Vote to eliminate the Full Day Kindergarten fee.