

Barnum's BEST

Barnum Elementary School News February 2021

News from the Principal

Hello BES families,

Now that we have almost two weeks of in person learning under our belts, please note a few updates:

CONFERENCES:

Elementary conferences are scheduled for February 9th and 11th from 4:00 to 8:00. These will be virtual. Look for information and a sign up link from your child's teacher. In a nutshell, you can schedule a google meet, a phone conference, or a detailed email exchange. While we would prefer to meet with you face to face, this is our reality right now. We look forward to the days of in person conferences!

One clarification that is worth noting: If your child opted for Distance Learning this fall and has recently transitioned to in person learning, you will conference with the Distance Learning Teacher - Mr. Youngberg, Mrs. McMahon (formerly Ms. Weisel), or Mr. Riihiluoma. These teachers know your child the best thus far and can speak to his/her progress on the report card. If you'd also like to connect with the in person teacher, you are welcome to do that as well.

COVID SCENARIOS:

As many of you know, our kindergarten class is currently quarantined due to a positive case at school. We understand the impact of this on your employment, potential health concerns, family situation, and more importantly, the kids.

Please be aware that with the new guidance, rather than having the entire school shift to Distance Learning model, this can occur with a grade level or a classroom.

While we are hopeful this situation won't occur frequently, it is possible. Thank you in advance for following MDH guidelines - keep your child home when they are symptomatic, not feeling well, or pending a COVID 19 test result. If you have questions regarding MDH, the decision tree, or your child's health, please contact Melissa Johnson, our school nurse. Her contact information:

mjohnson@isd91.org

218-389-6976 x1017

Below is information from the January Newsletter and still worth noting.

ATTENDANCE:

First of all, thank you for working with the school as we navigate continued COVID-19 health protocols. We understand the challenges these requirements pose to our families. As in the fall, please keep your child home if they are not feeling well, no matter the symptoms. Please inform the school nurse, Melissa Johnson, of the illness and symptoms so we can determine the "next steps" for your child. Melissa Johnson can be reached at 218-389-6976 x 1017 or mjohnson@isd91.org

In the event your child will be absent for multiple days due to COVID protocols, please contact your child's teacher. Due to HIPAA laws, the office staff is unable to do that on your behalf.

KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE:

While many of these healthy and safety protocols were put into place this fall, it's worth a review. Some protocols are new as we follow the most updated guidance.

Water bottles: Drinking fountains are closed, but we have 4 water bottle filling stations throughout BES. Please send a water bottle labeled with your child's name to school so he/she can remain hydrated throughout the day.

NEW! PE: Masks are required for indoor Physical Education. Students will bring their water bottles to PE class.

Masks: Staff, students, and visitors must wear a mask at all times (unless working in a space independently). Shields are highly recommended for staff, and staff will be provided this extra layer of protection. Students do get mask breaks by going outside, and during lunch and recess. We recommend packing extra masks for your child. Masks often need to be replaced throughout the day. Please contact your child's teacher if you have questions regarding masks.

Hand Washing Routines: Hands will be washed and/or sanitized multiple times throughout the day, and teachers will build time for this into the daily schedule.

Desks/Tables: Desks will be spaced all facing the same direction when possible. Plastic dividers will be used if this is not possible and during small group instruction.

Lunch: Kindergarten, 1st grade, and 5th grade will eat in the cafeteria. Students sit facing the same direction, 3 students/table, and 1st & 5th graders must sit with students from their

classroom (limited mixing of cohorts). Tables are sanitized between groups. For those grade levels that eat in the classroom, desks are sanitized after eating.

Entry & Exit: Students will enter and exit the building at staggered times before school and after school. This routine was established this fall when we came back to school in September. If you have questions regarding drop off and pick up routines, please call the office.

COVID testing: All staff and substitute teachers have the opportunity to test for COVID every two weeks, beginning January 13th.

TRANSPORTATION

If morning pick up times or afternoon drop off times have changed, or you are new to Barnum Elementary School, a bus driver will call you with route information.

Barnum Public schools will follow the most updated bus guidelines from MDE:

1. Passengers and bus drivers must keep a distance of 6 feet. Therefore, the front 4 seats (2 on each side) cannot be used for passengers.
2. To allow for improved air circulation, windows will be down 1-2 inches with heaters running. Please make sure your child has adequate winter gear to stay warm on the bus.
3. Students may not change seats during transportation during regular routes or for extra curricular activities.
4. Absolutely no eating or drinking on the bus, during regular routes or extra curricular activities.
5. Masks must be worn at all times.

PARENT SUPPORT CIRCLES:

Even though Distance Learning is coming to an end, parents may find the need for continued support. Local Circle Keepers are offering Parent Support Circles to serve parents during the COVID 19 Health Crisis. For further information and to register call 218-390-1707 or 218-380-4923.

As always if you have questions, concerns, or just want to stop in to visit, I enjoy connecting with you. Be well.

In Partnership,

Mrs. Vitito

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Important Dates

January 29th - End of Semester; Teacher Inservice Day; No School for Students

February 9th & 11th - Parent Teacher Conferences (virtual)

February 15th - President's Day - No School

March 22-26 - Spring Break - No School

Barnum PTO – Making BES the BEST it can be!

Many hands make light work - John Heywood

Are you new to BES? Are you looking for ways to get involved? Our PTO is seeking volunteers for various events throughout the year. Can't make the monthly meeting? That's OK - there is always the behind the scene work that needs to be accomplished.

Interested in volunteering? Send us the following information to barnumpto@gmail.com, text 763-568-2816 or find us on facebook.

Areas you can help:

Box Tops...Fundraising...All Arts Day....Community Calendars....All School Shirts....
Open House...Teacher Appreciation....Conference Meals....Spring Fever Days

You Matter!

 @principalvitito

At BES, we value our people...little people and big people. We look forward to connecting with you!

 3813 East North Street, Barnum, MN, USA

 (218) 389-6976

 jvitito@isd91.org

 isd91.org/elementary/