

BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS



October 14, 2020

Hello BPS,

As we end the first six weeks of school, I would like to share some of what we have learned since the re-opening of our schools on September 8, 2020. In recent weeks, we have seen a number of positive cases of COVID-19 in some of our schools which have caused disruptions to teaching and learning. According to public health officials in our state, there is an upward trend in COVID-19 positive cases as we begin to enter another flu season. In order to limit the number of disruptions to teaching and learning and to help increase our mitigation strategies during the fall and winter months, the Bridgeport Public Schools will move to a hybrid schedule in all of our schools beginning November 30, 2020. We are planning to run the hybrid schedule until February 16, 2021. We have been operating on a hybrid schedule at our high schools and it has been very effective in controlling the spread of COVID-19. I have included an explanation of our hybrid schedule below.

The hybrid schedule will be as follows:

- All students with the last name beginning in the letters A-L will attend Monday and Tuesday
- All students with the last name beginning in the letters M-Z will attend Thursday and Friday
- All students will be on remote learning on Wednesday

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Students Last Name A-L in School M-Z Remote	Students Last Name A-L in School M-Z Remote	All Student Groups Remote Learning with Teachers	Students Last Name M-Z in School A-L Remote	Students Last Name M-Z in School A-L Remote

Hybrid Schedule for students with an IEP

- **All students with an IEP may attend all 4 days**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
ALL Students with IEP	ALL Students with IEP	All Student Groups Remote Learning with Teachers	ALL Students with IEP	ALL Students with IEP

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Hybrid Schedule for ESL/Bilingual students

- **All students who receive ESL or Bilingual services may attend all 4 days**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
ALL ESL/Bilingual Students	ALL ESL/Bilingual Students	All Student Groups Remote Learning with Teachers	ALL ESL/Bilingual Students	ALL ESL/Bilingual Students

I understand this will pose challenges to many of our families, however, we must adjust as conditions change during this pandemic to continue to protect our students and staff members. Additionally, as the weather changes and the holiday season approaches, people will begin to gather indoors which can contribute to the spread of the coronavirus. Therefore, we are going to increase our health and safety measures at school by transitioning to the hybrid schedule and ensuring that all our mitigation strategies continue to be implemented and followed. Please be mindful that activities outside of school, such as holiday gatherings, do have an impact on our ability to keep everyone safe. We are asking for everyone to be diligent when planning indoor activities during the next several months, especially during the holiday season.

We are reminding everyone to be responsible and follow all health and safety safeguards. It is important to wear a mask and maintain social distancing for all activities where you will be in contact with people outside of your immediate household. This includes family and friends who you do not live with. Students/Staff who have any symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home and should notify their school as soon as possible. Please remember to take advantage of the testing sites throughout the City of Bridgeport. We want everyone who is showing symptoms or has been in close contact with someone who is sick to be tested before returning to school/work.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Testani
Superintendent of Schools