



**BENTLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
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Dear Bentley Families,

We continue to make progress on the details for the return to learning on August 26<sup>th</sup>. As you know, there are many moving parts to this planning and our goal is to provide a smooth transition back to school. This letter will outline the next set of expectations, knowing there will always be more details that some of you will crave and we will continue to get information to you. However, I have to work with you—our families, our teachers and ancillary staff, the Board of Education, and the law.

### **What will school look like when we start?**

We are beginning the year with all students learning remotely, which means our students will be attending class from wherever they are in the world. Our district, like many around us, will be using a learning management system called Canvas to help us keep the learning opportunities organized. Your child will have a login. You will notice that we will still be using Google Classroom, See Saw, and other resources to help us educate your children and to communicate with you, their family.

Teachers will video record lessons that are linked to the State learning standards. These are the learning standards that all students are expected to understand and be proficient with. These lessons will be posted to a playlist so that students can access them either during or after the regularly scheduled class. Each class period, teachers will be available virtually to review the content from their lesson, answer questions, moderate discussion groups, etc. So, it is expected that students will attend to their learning via the lessons every day.

Certainly, it is preferable to participate in the class during the regularly scheduled class time. However, because the lessons will be posted, it is possible for students to engage in the learning outside of the class period. It is expected that they will engage in the learning that day, even if it is later in the day. Each day builds on the previous day's learning, and so it is critical that students are keeping up, just as they would if they were sitting in a chair on campus. This is like watching a football game: you can watch it live at the stadium or watch it from the recorded DVR later.

Students are expected to be engaged in their learning five (5) days per week according to the school calendar. And teachers will keep track of student participation in lessons on Google Hangouts, via online discussion forums, through submitted work, emails between teacher and student, and phone calls or texts between teacher and student. There are many ways students can be engaged. The key is that they are engaged. Students' grades will reflect their proficiency with the learning standards.

Additionally, it is expected that if a student or a parent has a question, it will be emailed to the teacher. Teachers will respond to emails throughout the day. Emails received after 4:00 p.m. will likely be answered the next school day.

### **What is the timeline of events?**

August 26<sup>th</sup>, devices will be available to be checked-out. If you need one, you may check one out from your child's school to use at home for remote learning. Additionally, any books or supplies that students need will be distributed at this time. Many teachers will be on campus and are just as eager to meet their students as their students are eager to meet them. Please note: students will have to be registered to check out a device. More details to follow.

August 27<sup>th</sup> and August 28<sup>th</sup>, students and parents will learn about Canvas and get acclimated to the learning platform. All of this will be done online.

August 31<sup>st</sup>, formal lessons linked to learning standards will begin.

Fridays will be for independent student work based on that week's lessons. Teachers will be available to help students with work, review content, etc. Learning, of course, comes from the thinking and problem solving that students do, not from what teachers say. Therefore, it will be important that students be engaged on Fridays in the work/projects that have been assigned.

### **How will this fall be different from the spring?**

<b>Spring 2020</b>	<b>Fall 2020</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students received pass/fail marks</li><li>• Students were encouraged to learn the standards taught</li><li>• Attendance was not taken and engagement was spotty</li><li>• Bentley teachers provided learning from other sources</li><li>• Office hours for teachers varied</li><li>• Some teachers used Google Classroom, some used See Saw. There were different platforms and this was sometimes confusing.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students will receive grades</li><li>• Students will be held accountable to learning the standards</li><li>• Attendance will be accounted for by student engagement</li><li>• Bentley teachers will be teaching the lessons, which will be recorded and posted</li><li>• Teachers will be available daily</li><li>• All teachers will have the benefit of and will use a learning management system (Canvas). It is effective for K-12 and supports the tools you have come to know like Google Classroom and See Saw. It is akin to a workbench for a woodworker. This will enable our teachers and students to be more organized and productive.</li></ul>

Yesterday, I saw a billboard with two pictures: one of a man with a mask and the other of a man on a ventilator. It asked of the man with a mask, "You think this is uncomfortable?" and of the man on the ventilator it said, "You should try this." Masks and ventilators aside, it made me

think that while we are all having to work out of our comfort zone--and this is all very challenging and uncomfortable--it could always be much worse. Together, we will work through this.

More to come next week as we continue to refine our plans. As always, thank you for your patience.

You are appreciated,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Kristy Spann". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Kristy Spann