July 23, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

With approximately five weeks leading to the start of the 2020-2021 school year, I want to provide you with a brief update regarding the Bendle plan for opening on August 31st.

Currently, school districts throughout the county are planning to accommodate students through two options (face-to-face classroom and distance learning). As of today, Genesee County’s Region is in Phase 4 of the MI Safe Schools: Return to Schools Roadmap. Under “Phase 4,” schools will be providing “face-to-face” learning in classrooms with required safety protocols in place. Our current plan will be to provide instruction within the schools Monday through Friday during traditional hours. Students and staff will be required to use face masks and employ social distancing strategies. However, there will be certain times students in classrooms may not be required to wear masks.

Bendale is also working in conjunction with the Genesee Intermediate School District to provide a new distance learning plan as well. This will allow for greater consistency and a more effective approach to learning should schools be forced to close again. It will also serve as an option for those parents uncomfortable with having their children return to classroom instruction in the fall. Given the smaller size of our district and ability to complete thorough cleaning nightly, there are no current plans to use split schedules or alternative instruction days for specific grade levels. All students will attend Monday through Friday, during regular school hours.

In an effort to determine how many of our parents would prefer to have their children learn through an online learning option, we ask that everyone complete a survey on our district website (www.bendleschools.org). Opting for the “online option involves a one semester commitment.”

Please keep in mind, directives for school districts may change between now and August 31st. For this reason, it’s possible final plans may be affected due to future developments. More information will be provided as we near the August 31st start. To receive the latest information, please refer to the Bendle Public Schools district website (www.bendleschools.org).

Again, current plans continue to be based upon the latest information and guidance from the State of Michigan as well as the Genesee County Health Department. With the goal to protect staff and safely educate students, all options will continue to be evaluated in order to provide the safest learning environment possible. Despite some obvious challenges, we’re looking forward to a safe and exciting start to the new school year!

Sincerely,

John Krolewski, Superintendent
Bendale Public Schools