



Bitney Prep High School - Fall Semester 2020-2021 Reopening Plan

Learn at Home with Onsite Technology Learning Center

The information outlined below describes the plans that have been developed by the faculty & staff of Bitney Prep High School to restart our instructional program for the beginning of the 2020-2021 School Year. Our BPHS community recognizes the reality that, due to the fact that California and Nevada County are still in the midst of dealing with the COVID-19 Pandemic, our plans may change either prior to the start of the school year or after the school year has begun. The provisions of this plan are temporarily operating policies for Bitney Prep High School and will supersede previously existing, contradictory school policies until school is able to reopen on a regular basis.

Operational Principles

1. Protecting the health and safety of students, faculty, staff and their families is our number one priority in developing and implementing the plans for our instructional program.
2. Instructional and Safety Plans at BPHS for the 2020-2021 school year take into account the directives and guidance of the Nevada County Department of Public Health, the California Department of Public Health, and the California Department of Education.
3. We believe that the plan outlined below provides our best opportunity to create both a safe learning environment for students and staff and an instructional plan that will provide consistency and sustainability for starting the 2020-2021 school year.
4. This plan is temporary and is Phase One of a three phase process that will eventually lead to a more full opening of Bitney Prep High School for in-person education. Phase Two involves bringing students back to school part time in cohorts. Phase Three would involve on campus participation of most Bitney students. Staff will work to reassess the safety conditions after Quarter One of the 2020-2021 school year and come back to the Charter Council with recommendations.

Goals

1. To implement plans, procedures, and requirements that mitigate the risk of COVID-19 infection for students and staff.
2. To provide equitable access to engaging and effective instruction and learning for all students.

3. To work with students to remediate any learning loss due to the transition to distance learning during the last three months of the 2019-2020 school year and to ensure that students who fell behind resolve any incomplete grades.
4. To provide students opportunities for Learning Through Interest (LTI) experiences in line with Bitney's Big Picture Learning philosophy.

Overview - Learning At Home with Onsite Technology Learning Center

For the Fall Semester of the 2020-2021 school year, the majority of Bitney Prep students will complete their coursework at home by participating in synchronous online learning classes. Students will log into online classes at set times to receive direct instruction from their teachers. They will be able to participate in class activities, discussions, and guided practice. We know that some of our students do not have access to consistent, reliable internet connectivity at home. To address this lack of connectivity, Bitney will provide a Technology Learning Center on campus for students to attend in person if they do not have access to the internet at home. This Technology Learning Center space, along with the students and staff who use the space, will conform with all social distancing, mask requirements, and safety guidelines provided to Nevada County schools by the Nevada County Department of Public Health and the California Department of Public Health. The Technology Learning Center is intended primarily to support students who do not have access to reliable internet at home. Space will be limited to 10-12 students per day. This is not a drop-in space. Students participating in the TLC will form a consistent cohort of students and will be expected to attend school consistently on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Bitney Prep will continue to follow the practice of scheduling academic courses on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. The Bell Schedule for these days is included below. Wednesdays will be days when students focus on Advisory based Learning Through Interest (LTIs) projects. These LTI Projects will be done asynchronously by students. This means that students will not be logging in to specific class periods. Instead, they will be working independently on projects that they have developed in coordination with their Advisory teachers. Students will be required to check-in with their Advisors on Wednesday. They will also be required to document their learning activities and the time that they are working on their LTI projects.

Rationale

We believe that a Learning at Home model will provide the greatest amount of safety and stability for our students. Using this approach, we will be able to fully focus upon social distancing, cleaning, and sanitation for a significantly smaller portion of our campus and student body. This approach will also limit cross exposure created by having students move among different groups, teachers, and rooms throughout each day and week. Additionally, this

model will create a situation where we do not have to close the school and significantly redirect our instructional program if a member of our community tests positive for COVID-19.

Lastly, starting the year with a program that is primarily online will allow our teachers to fully focus on online instruction. They will be able to build upon the experiences from last spring to expand and strengthen the curricula and learning opportunities that are being provided to our students.

We recognize that there are significant negative impacts upon students and families caused by the necessity of socially distanced learning. Students want and need to interact with their teachers and peers. We are committed to expanding and improving the social and emotional support we provide for our students. Changing to a delivery model where students will be required to join and participate online in classes during a regularly scheduled day will greatly increase teacher contact and student-to-student interaction. We are also building time into each week for students to interact in non-academic settings.

(Note: On July 17, 2020, California Governor Newsom announced that schools in all California Counties that are on the state watchlist because of rising cases will have to be in a learning mode where students are not coming to campus. With the plan outlined here, a small number of students will actually be coming to campus. If the situation in Nevada County leads to required distance learning for all students or if it is deemed safe for a greater proportion of students to return to campus, then these plans will be adjusted.)

Change to Block Scheduling

Last spring the feedback that we received from many of our students was that they found that keeping on track of five, six, or seven classes using a distance format was oftentimes overwhelming. To address this challenge, we are switching to a block schedule for the 2020-2021 school year. Each student will take four classes each semester. Changing to a system where both students and teachers are involved in fewer classes will allow teachers to work more closely with a smaller number of students and provide support where needed. One of the four classes that each student will take will be their Advisory Class, which will meet Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday for 50 minutes. For each semester, students will earn 5 credits for Advisory Class. The other three classes that students will take will meet Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday for 90 minutes. In these three block scheduled classes, students will cover all of the course content in one semester and earn 10 credits. Using this schedule, students will be able to focus on a smaller number of classes at a time. Students will be able to complete up to 70 credits per year and will earn the credits that they need for graduation. A copy of the block schedule Bell Schedule is included below.

BPHs - Block Schedule - Fall Semester 2020-2021

	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday
Block 1	8:30-10:00 am	8:30-10:00 am	8:30-10:00 am	8:30-10:00 am
Advisory	10:10-11:00 am	10:10-11:00 am	10:10-11:00 am	10:10-11:00 am
Block 2	11:10-12:40 pm	11:10-12:40 pm	11:10-12:40 pm	11:10-12:40 pm
Lunch	12:40-1:10 pm	12:40-1:10 pm	12:40-1:10 pm	12:40-1:10 pm
Block 3	1:15-2:45 pm	1:15-2:45 pm	1:15-2:45 pm	1:15-2:45 pm
Office Hours - Groups	2:50-3:30 pm	2:50-3:30 pm	2:50-3:30 pm	2:50-3:30 pm

Wednesday - Learning Through Interest Focus

Because of safety concerns, at the beginning of this school year, it will not be possible for Bitney Prep to place the majority of our students into Wednesday Internships. However, we feel that it is very important for our students to re-engage in the kind of interest-based learning that students experience through internships. Interest-based learning can take place in many different ways. On Wednesdays, students will develop and undertake their own learning/passion projects. Students will work with their Advisors to develop these projects. Advisors will connect digitally with students on Wednesdays to help develop these projects and supervise their completion. On Wednesdays, students will be expected to check in with their advisor; however, the majority of students' time on Wednesdays will be spent in asynchronous, individual or small group projects.

It is important for all students and parents to understand that Wednesday is a required school day for Bitney Prep Students. All students will need to participate in the Advisory activities on Wednesdays in order to earn their Advisory credits.

Accountability and Grades

Last Spring when all schools in Nevada County switched to a distance learning model, we made adjustments to mitigate the impact of this unexpected change upon our students and families. We switched to a Hold Harmless grading policy and provided students with paper "work packets". While these measures were appropriate, given circumstances, they also had a negative impact upon student learning and accountability.

Required participation and grade accountability will once again be incorporated into our learning program. The California Department of Education is requiring that schools account for

instructional minutes for all students whether or not they are coming to school on any given school day. Attendance will be taken in all synchronous classes on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Attendance and participation will also be considered a part of the grade in all of these classes. Classes will be recorded and archived. If students are not present online during the scheduled class time, they will need to log into the classes and complete the class and assignments at another time, just as they would if they were absent from school. Parents will be contacted regarding student absences from online classes. On LTI Wednesdays, students will be required to log their activities and turn in the logs as a part of the Advisory grade.

Learning Loss Mitigation

One important aspect of any instructional plan that we undertake during the coming year is to address learning and credit losses that occurred during our transition to distance learning last spring. Teachers, especially in Mathematics and English, courses will conduct an assessment at the beginning of the year to identify and remediate any losses caused by the transition to distance learning last spring. Additionally, a significant number of our students finished the Spring Semester with incomplete grades in one or more of their classes. At the beginning of the school year, Wednesday's LTI time will also be used by these students to complete learning and assignments required to finish those classes and earn their credits. These students may also be required to log in online on Wednesdays to meet with the teachers in the subjects where they earned incomplete grades.

Social and Emotional Support for Students

We recognize the importance of social interaction for teenage students and know that much of that interaction is lost when students are not able to attend school in person. We also know that for some students, attending school provides important emotional and mental support. While this social interaction and support will not be fully available until all students can return to school on a daily basis, we are committed to taking steps to support our students' social and emotional needs.

Our return to synchronous daily advisory classes will help students stay in closer touch with both their peers and teachers. All Advisors will institute procedures to assist students in reaching out for help when they are struggling. Along these lines, our staff will also be taking steps to connect with parents to seek feedback on student wellness and needs. Also, we have incorporated time at the end of each school day for teacher office hours. During this last hour, we will be setting up voluntary groups or clubs that students can choose to attend. These groups are intended to connect students with shared interests and needs.

Student Lunches

For safety reasons, during the Fall Semester of 2020-2021, Bitney will be suspending the Off-Campus Lunch Privileges for all students. Students who are on campus are welcome to bring their own lunch with them to school. Bitney will also provide lunches for students who want or need them. These lunches will be provided free of charge for all students who qualify for free and reduced lunches under the National School Lunch Program. The lunches will also be available for students who do not qualify for the NSLP for a small cost. There will be an outdoor area where students can eat their lunches in a socially distanced environment.

Safety Measures and Procedures

As stated above, the primary determining factor in planning for the 2020-2021 school year is student and staff safety. We are developing a detailed *COVID-19 - School Site-Specific Protection Plan* that outlines all of our plans to address social distancing, personal protective equipment, health screenings, and facilities sanitation. This plan will be available to all members of our community prior to the start of the school year. Additionally, the plan addresses mitigation steps that will be taken when, and if, some member of the Bitney Prep community tests positive for COVID-19. Please refer to the Bitney SSPP Plan for specific details regarding safety procedures and requirements. The specific details of our safety plan will include:

- Health Checks for Students and Staff - Each person who is coming on campus this fall will be asked to participate in a health check. Both students and staff will be asked to complete a Health Check Questionnaire before coming to campus. Additionally, both students and staff will participate in a temperature check and will be asked questions about their health when they come to school.
- Mandatory Face Masks/Coverings - On July 17th, Governor Newsom mandated that all staff and students in grades three and above wear face masks when they are on a school campus. Face masks must cover both the mouth and the nose. Masks will be provided to students who do not have one of their own.
- Social Distancing - Students and Staff in all classrooms and other spaces on campus will be required to practice social distancing. Desks will be set up with six feet of clearance. Students and staff will not be allowed to congregate in groups that are not following the social distancing requirements. Students will be required to use restroom facilities one person at a time.
- Cleaning and Sanitation - All classrooms and other indoor spaces that are being occupied on campus will be cleaned and sanitized on a daily basis following EPA guidelines for disinfection.
- Illness on Campus - Bitney will have protocols for isolating students and staff who become ill or show possible symptoms of COVID 19 while on campus. We will follow the

Nevada County Department of Public Health Guidelines for community notification and shutting down of cohorts of individuals based upon possible exposure to COVID 19.

- Student and Staff Safety Procedure Training - All students and staff who are coming to campus will be trained on the safety protocols and procedures that Bitney is taking to protect our community from COVID 19.