

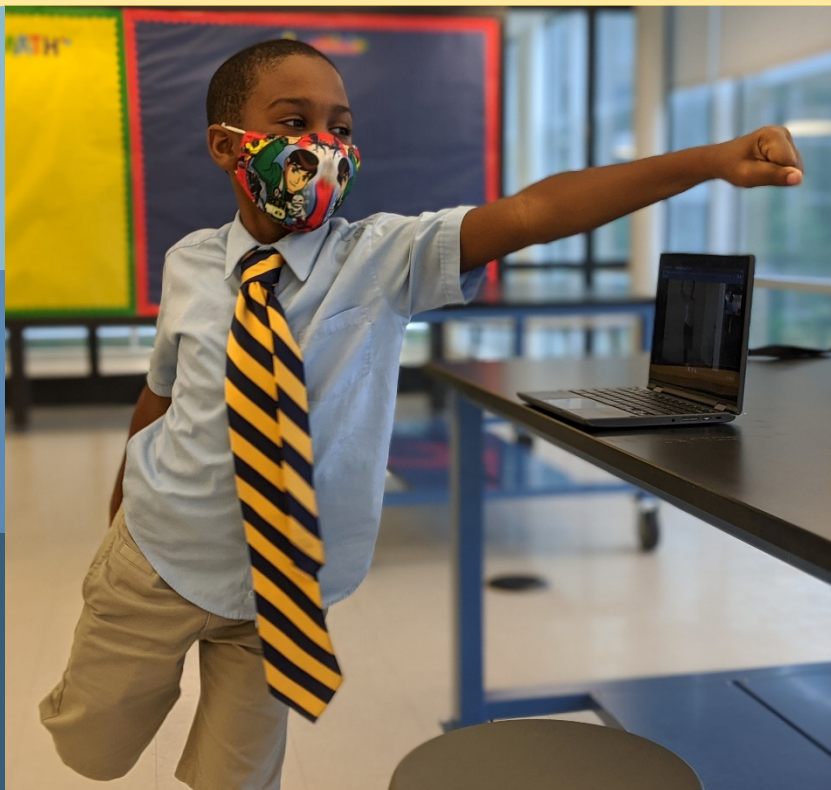
2020-21 SCHOOL RE-OPENING PLAN

September 2020

Responsive
Distance
Learning

Enhanced
Family
Engagement

Equity
Centered
Options



To stay fully up-to-date with how we are adapting during COVID,
please visit www.bishopwalkerschool.org/RDL

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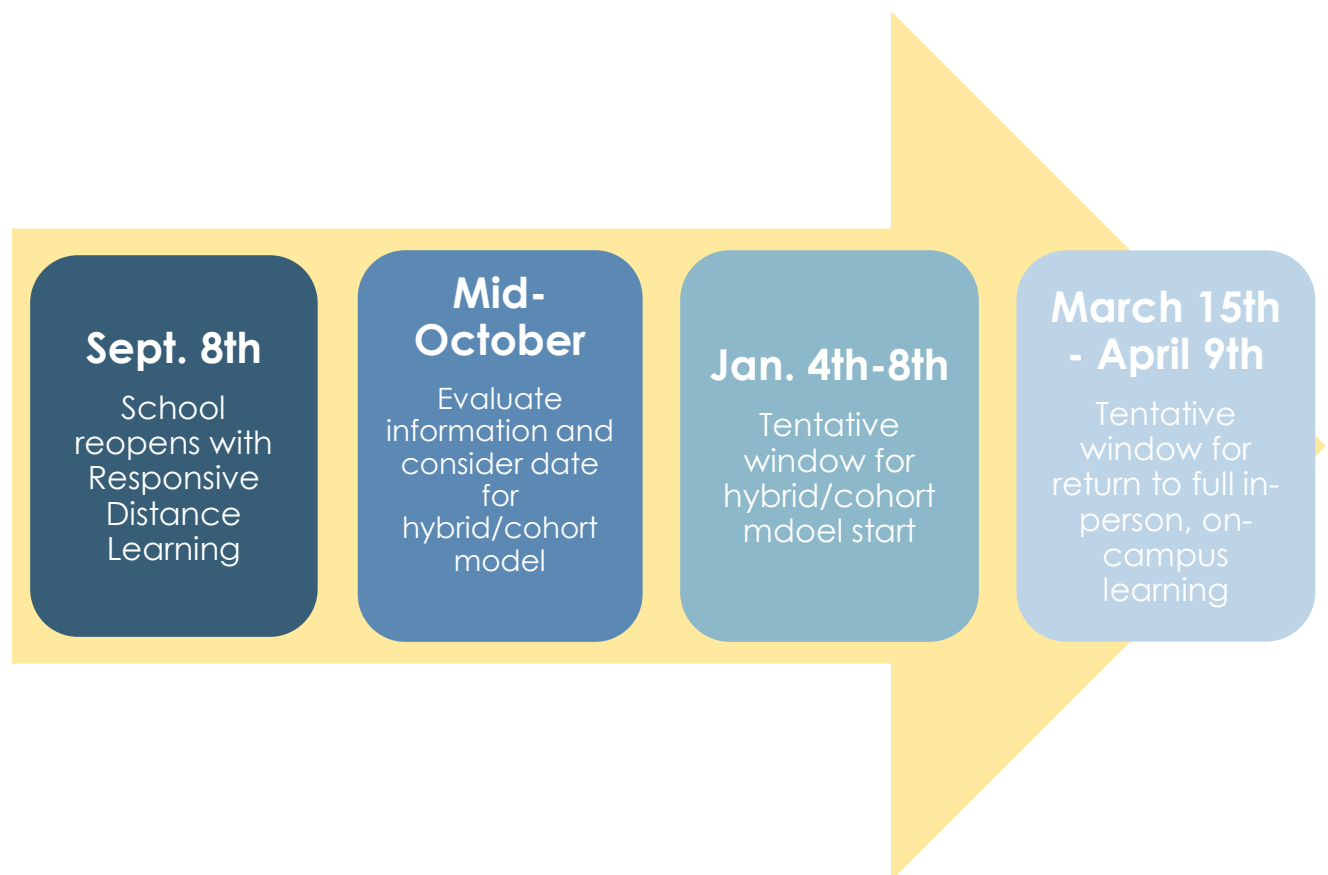
Re-Opening Plan – Page 5

A visual representation of the current—but subject to change—reopening plan from Summer '20 to Summer '21 and a detailed breakdown of the elements of that plan.

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A list of frequently asked questions including a list of links to more information and resources

Important Dates in Reopening



A Message from Head of School Mike Molina

The Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys' is mission driven. We nurture the spiritual, intellectual, social-emotional, artistic and physical development of children from traditionally underserved communities. We work in close partnership with students and families. We create an environment where each boy is challenged to reach his full academic potential and receives the structured support necessary to develop his unique gifts as a child of God. How can we live out this mission in the time of COVID-19, when our School community is among the most vulnerable to the direst impacts of the global pandemic?



To live out our mission, our response must be balanced between meeting the immediate challenges at hand and preparing for the long-term realities that emerge from those challenges. This requires us to build a distance-learning program that is responsive to the present needs of the Bishop Walker School community while at the same time planting seeds that can flower after this pandemic has passed. As a result, we have developed a plan for **Responsive Distance Learning** – an approach that will be flexible, resilient, and dynamic in the face of rapidly changing circumstances.

What is Responsive Distance Learning? Like many things in 2020, we will need to design some of the plan as we go. One of the grounding principles is that we will do our very best to root every decision in our mission, our values, and in the most accurate and up to date information from our families and scholars, our faculty and administration, and from experts in the fields of health and education. From this foundation we will work, innovate, and learn together as a community of faith. Despite many months of massive uncertainty, the BWS Village will work together and count on each other to do our best to work through the challenging issues that face our families.

I want to thank all of the supporters of BWS who have contributed resources and encouragement since the pandemic first began to impact the School in March. As our Chaplain, Father Tim Malone, and others have distributed gift cards, groceries, internet hotspots, and laptops to support distance learning, other supporters have sponsored our inaugural Summer RESTORE program, significantly increased our teacher professional development budget, and provided invaluable insight and guidance. There will be more to do, but we are ready to take on these challenges because of your gracious support.

Gratefully,

Michael O. Molina
Head of School

Principles & Process

Guiding Principles

- We are a school that serves a mission, and we will continue to maintain high expectations for ourselves and for our students, while continuing to maintain a commitment to the social-emotional and physical health of the children and adults in our community.
- We are an Episcopal School, and we will follow the *Principles of Good Practice for Equity and Justice in Episcopal Schools* and “attend to the intellectual, physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of all students and develop and monitor programs and policy to this end.”
- We are an independent School, and we will make our best efforts to “take the best and leave the rest” with regard to guidance on best practices for re-opening our School as safely as we can.
- We are a School community, and we will seek—and value—input from faculty, parents, students, and administrators.
- Our evolving plan will reflect the needs, capacities, and aspirations of the BWS community, and we will build new skills, understand new realities, and commit thought and action to meeting this challenge.
- We will push ourselves to think big, bold, and long-term, building new skills, understanding new realities, and our plan will be enacted with thoughtfulness, effort, and dedication.

Planning Process

- Proactive Planning - Summer RESTORE sessions aided preparation for distance learning in the long-term.
- Information Gathering - Administrators' participation in COVID-19 mitigation task-forces, information sessions, workshops, seminars, and conversations with health and education experts from local to international levels.
- Community Dialogue - Dialogue between parents, faculty, and administrators substantively shaped the development of reopening options.
- Modified Consensus - Administrators contributed perspectives and input and participated in a modified consensus process to decide on how best to reopen.
- Reflection and Redesign - Gathering feedback from BWS community surveys, townhalls, groups, and individual conversations will inform plan revisions.

Family Engagement Survey Results

Here is a snapshot of what we learned from the BWS Family Engagement Survey:

Regarding distance learning:

- 60% of our families are not comfortable sending their children back to school in the fall
- 45% have family members at home who are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19
- 97% are comfortable with doing distance learning in the fall

Regarding ongoing supports needed to do distance learning well:

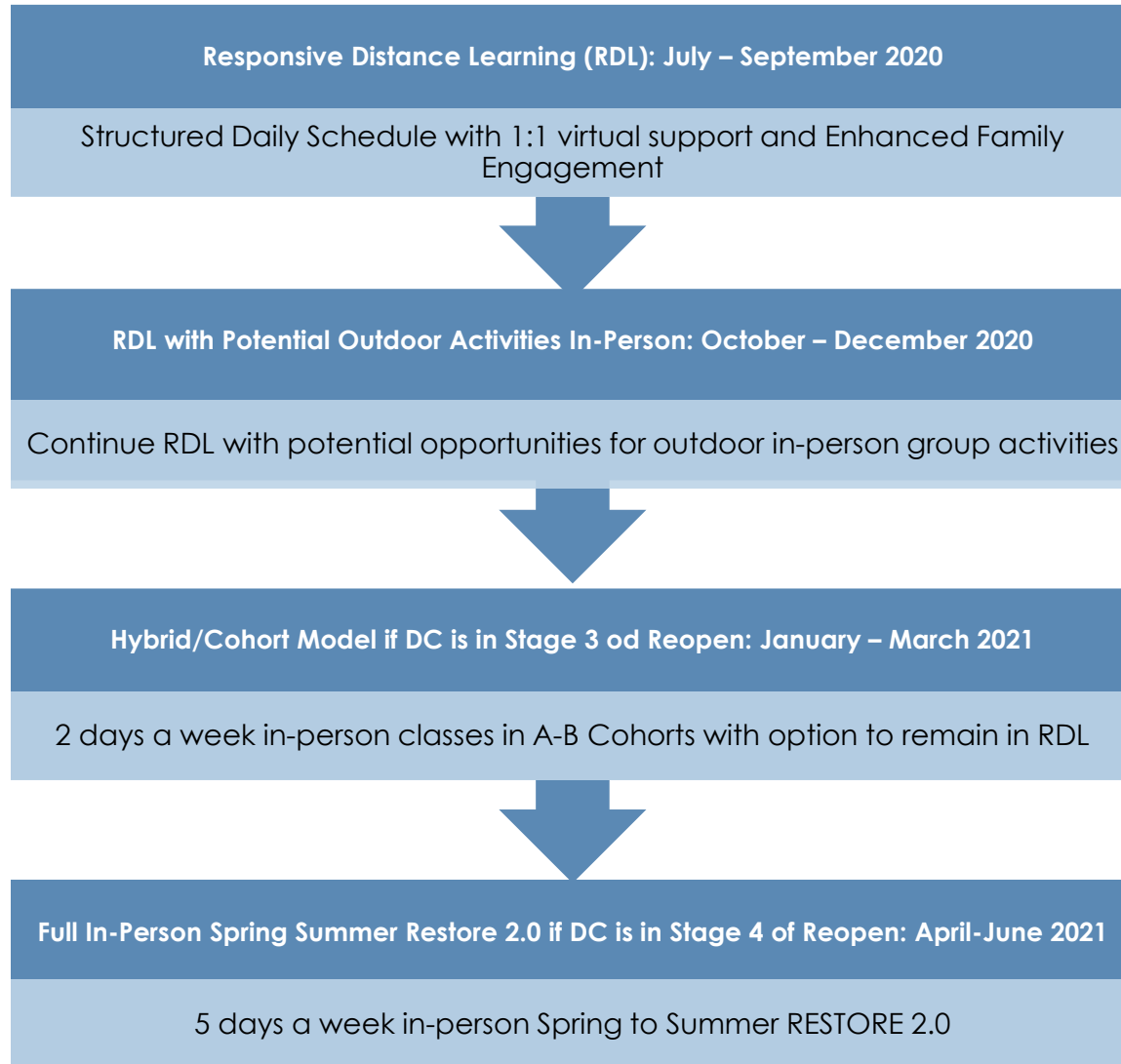
- 75% need help supporting their child with school work
- 60% need help supporting their child with staying on task and completing work
- 50% need help with supporting their child in developing good habits
- 40% need help with supporting their child's emotional needs
- 35% need help with childcare
- 95% feel comfortable helping other parents meet these needs



Overall, many BWS families have responded to the pandemic by becoming closer-knit, spending more time together, getting active outside, and praying. This, more than any data point, speaks to the resiliency and strength of the Bishop Walker School community. We plan to rally that strength to meeting this moment with grace and faith as we come together to help those of our families and scholars who are struggling emotionally, academically, or otherwise. We will continue to make a way with an eye towards what we can learn about ourselves and our vast potential to be an excellent school for a long time to come.

Bishop Walker School 2020-21 Reopening Plan

(Projected)



Features of Responsive Distance Learning (July - December 2020)

Increased Technical Capacity for Students and Faculty

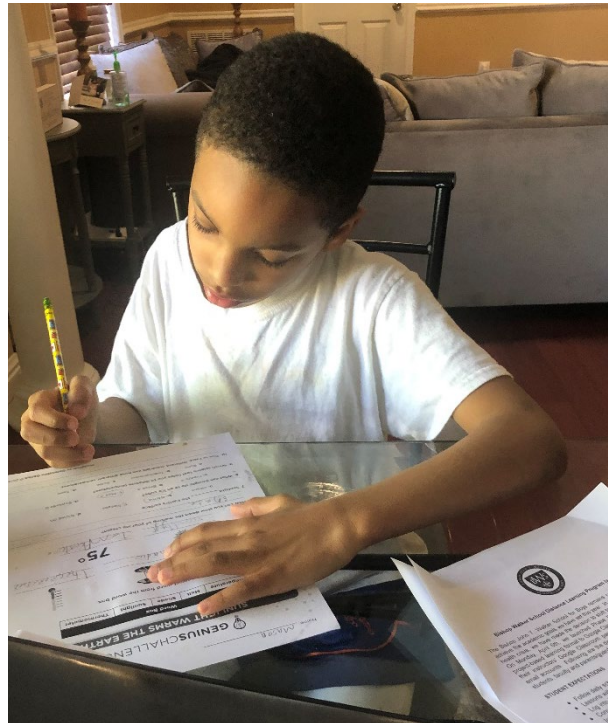
- 1:1 Laptops for each student
- Ongoing support for internet access
- Web-cams and increased online storage for teachers' recorded lessons

Increased Structure and Individualized Support

- Structured daily live sessions, Monday - Friday from 8:15 – 3:00pm
- Content recorded for students to access
- 1:1 student support/tutoring/homework help

Increased Professional Capacity of Teachers

- Ongoing professional development in online learning
- Ongoing development of data-driven strategies for diagnosing and responding to student performance led by Assistant Head for Academics and School Culture, Jonathan Williams
- Professional coaching, modelling, and resource gathering from the Director of Curriculum Design and Implementation, Itéa Bell Tanner



Improved Strategies for Student Engagement

- Hands-on, learning kits sent home to accompany instruction at regular intervals
- Commitment to social-emotional learning as core to the program

Enhanced Family Engagement

We are developing a number of ways to respond to our families' challenges with distance learning. Those responses will include an enhancement to our engagement with families. While we will start the year in September with the following commitments, we will look for opportunities to further expand and deepen how we connect with and support families.

Structured Family Engagement

- Regular check-ins with families and students by BWS staff
- Support for Parent Ambassador leadership within the parent body

Parent Education Opportunities

- Student academic support workshops for parents
- Student social-emotional support workshops for parents

Continued Support for Food Security and Other Needs

- We will continue to access community resources and be a distribution resource for food
- We will continue to seek out ways to be supportive to families with other material needs

Student Mindfulness Practices

- We will engage the virtual space to introduce mindfulness practices into the home



Equity-Centered Options

We are fully committed to the health and well-being of our faculty and staff, our students and families, and our administrators. For this reason, parents will retain the option for their child to remain in Responsive Distance Learning throughout the year. We also recognize that our mission calls upon us to provide support for our most vulnerable children and families. For this reason, we are working to create the possibility of a small number of students in grades 3-5 to be in-person with us—either on campus or at a safe satellite location—when School starts in September. While this will require additional hiring and investment in COVID-19 mitigation, we recognize that this may be the only option for some of our most vulnerable families.



Requirements for a return to in-person School instruction in September:

- An initial conversation with a School administrator about the circumstances of need. This conversation must occur between August 1st and August 21st.
- Documented need related to inability to secure daily supervision for a BWS student and/or
- Documented academic need related to diagnosed learning difference or disability
- Assumption of Risk and Return Agreement signed by legal guardian
- Mandatory daily health screenings and completion of Intent to Attend form one week prior to attendance in-person

All final decisions regarding a student's return to in-person School instruction in September will be at the sole discretion of the Bishop Walker School leadership.

Frequently Asked Questions

What do parents do if they cannot secure childcare for their child during the scheduled hours of Responsive Distance Learning this fall?

Parents are encouraged to contact their scholar's teacher, an administrator, or the Head of School to communicate your need. We will work to support our families in having a safe place to be while they access BWS Responsive Distance Learning.

How do parents express their perspective on this plan and offer their concerns or support in making it happen excellently?

We have had and will continue to have parent town hall meetings as a forum for questions and expressions of concern. Parents may also contact the Head of School directly to express their concerns so that we can take those concerns into account as we continue to enact and revise this plan.

What factors will the school consider in deciding when to move to a Hybrid/Cohort model of in- person instruction?

We will consider many factors in making these decisions, including the mandates of the DC Department of Health, and we plan to seek to align with the suggestions of the DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE). The Hybrid/Cohort model is a design of the OSSE in which students would attend school in cohorts. Cohort A would attend school on Monday and Tuesday and cohort B would attend school on Thursday and Friday with a Wednesday break from instruction for deep cleaning in accordance with the requirements of the DC Department of Health. Responsive Distance Learning would continue for each cohort when they are not scheduled to be in-person on campus.

What kind of guidelines will the school follow to ensure safe in-person School for our faculty and those students who are particularly vulnerable?

We will make our best efforts to promote the health and safety of our staff and our scholars by staying informed about the DC Department of Health's guidelines for safe schools, and following those protocols as closely as we reasonably can.

What if parents don't feel comfortable sending their child to in-person school at all this school year?

We plan to maintain Responsive Distance Learning throughout the School year to provide the option for parents to keep their child engaged in on-line School at BWS, even if the child is not able to attend in person.