

**Bement CUSD 5
Returning to School FAQ
2020-2021 School Year**

What is the difference between in-person and remote learning?

For purposes of clarity, in-person learning is a traditional school approach with students in the building daily and remote learning (eLearning) is learning only through online instruction.

If your child has an IEP and you do NOT want them to attend every day, you will need to contact your child's teacher or building principal to set up an IEP meeting for possible changes to their plan.

If I do not feel comfortable sending my student to school, are there other options available?

We understand that some families may be reluctant to send their child(ren) to school. For those families, a remote learning option will be offered. It is important to note that it will not be the same as in-person instruction and that in-person learning is highly recommended through ISBE guidelines. Remote learning is not the same thing as homeschooling. Parents/guardians must register their student(s) for the remote learning option.

What should I consider when deciding whether or not my student(s) will attend in-person instruction or learn remotely?

The school district encourages each student to attend in person instruction. However, the district recognizes some families may have concerns about sending their student(s) to school. Therefore, each family should consider the following when making this decision. 1) the comfort level they have with the student(s) attending in-person, 2) the student's educational strengths and weaknesses, 3) internet capabilities, 4) the self motivation of the student and 5) their ability to adapt to independent practice and discipline required for remote learning.

If I choose for my student to start the year through Remote Learning, will he/she have the opportunity to return to in-person learning during the 2020-2021 year?

Yes - Your student will have the opportunity to switch to in-person or local remote learning during designated times. To help with routine and planning, we ask that you make a commitment to one of the options and only switch at semester.

How will grades be determined when school resumes in the fall?

Students will receive grades on assignments given during all types of learning. Teachers will return to traditional grading for completion of assignments, assessments, and other classroom instructional strategies. Deadlines for curriculum tasks will be communicated by individual teachers to all learners. By using the traditional grading policies, poor grades can negatively impact the overall average. Learners are encouraged to be actively engaged and responsible for the completion of all work.

2020-2021 school calendar be modified due to COVID-19?

Currently the district does not intend to modify the 2020-21 school calendar. However, students and families should approach this year with the understanding that returning to remote learning is a definite possibility and, therefore, our school calendar might change.

Will the length of the school day be changed?

Yes - In order to better adhere to safety guidelines, the length of the school day will be shortened. Students will be in attendance from 8:15 am -2:00 pm. The length of the school day for staff will be the normal schedule.

Will my student have to wear a mask during the school day?

Yes - Per ISBE guidelines, all teachers, staff members, and students will be required to wear a face mask when in the building during the school day. When outdoors, students will be able to remove masks as long as social distancing can occur and teachers have given permission. We will take mask breaks throughout the day. Students who cannot wear a mask due to medical reasons must have a note from the doctor documenting the reasons for the inability to wear masks and will need to be on remote learning or wear a face shield with an emphasis on social distancing at all times. IEP students may need to have accommodations written into their plans.

Will my student's temperature be checked daily at school?

All students will have their temperature checked daily and will be certified by the school before they enter a bus or the buildings. Individuals who have a temperature greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or currently known symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, fatigue, muscle and body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea) may not enter the bus or building. Individuals who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms should be referred to a medical provider for evaluation, treatment, and information about when they can return to school. It is going to be extremely important for parents to be very diligent in not sending their student(s) to school if they are not feeling well.

Will the school be able to maintain social distancing during the school day? Social distancing will occur as much as possible. Bement will have policies in place to help ensure proper social distancing is practiced in the various stages and settings of the school day. However, the school setting is also unique in regards to the amount of students in one location at any given time and, as a result, there may be times when proper social distancing measures are not feasible. Because of this, it is imperative students adhere to any movement instructions they are given and mask wearing guidelines.

How will social distancing be maintained during passing periods?

Teachers will monitor students in the hallway to ensure they are quickly moving to the next class period after being dismissed. Hallways will be labeled to ensure students are walking on the correct side of the hall. Passing periods will be staggered to make social distancing more effective. Some stairwell traffic will be one direction only.

Can my student still get breakfast before school?

The School Breakfast Program will still be available, however, options for students may be more limited to packaged items. Social distancing will be enforced during breakfast.

Will my student still be able to ride the bus to school?

Yes - Current guidelines strongly encourage parents to provide transportation, if needed, for their students. However, the district recognizes this is not always possible and will maintain its use of provided transportation for students. It will, however, be important for parents to indicate on their registration forms if this transportation is needed for their student(s).

Will a locker be issued to my student?

Yes, lockers will be assigned for possible use later in the school year. Students will be allowed to carry backpacks to class during this time. Please, minimize the number of personal belongings that come to school. Only the supplies necessary for the school day should be brought to school.

Where will my student eat lunch?

Designated lunch areas will be established with no more than 50 occupants in each area at one time. Because students will not wear face masks while eating, assigned seats will be established on the first day of school for all students. Assigned seats can be changed at the end of each quarter. Students will report directly to the assigned table when dismissed for lunch. Lunch monitors will release each section of students when it is time.

Can my child still bring a cold lunch to school?

Yes - students can still bring a cold lunch to school. We are recommending that students bring lunches in a paper sack that can be thrown away after lunch or in a reusable lunch bag with a cold pack.

Will water fountains be available for student use?

Students will be given a water bottle to use throughout the day. We will be labeling the water bottle with each student's name to ensure safety. Water fountains will be available to refill those water bottles.

How will restrooms be monitored to ensure social distancing?

Restroom monitors will be present whenever possible outside each set of restrooms to limit the numbers of students using the restroom at one time. Stalls and urinals will be taped off so that social distancing can better be maintained.

Will visitors be allowed in the building?

No - At this time, outside visitors will be limited to only those essential to the operation of the school day and/or school building. Any visitor to the building will need to self-certify they are free of fever and symptoms of COVID and have their temperature taken upon arrival.

If my student is a remote learner, what should they expect on a daily basis?

Students who choose to learn remotely will be held to the same standards as those who select in-person learning. The major difference will be in the manner in which instruction is presented. Remote learning will be on a different platform while our teachers are also teaching in-person. There will be support within those programs/curriculum and many hands-on opportunities. Contact your child's building principal for more information. There is a first semester commitment required to choose the remote learning option, even if the in-person instruction changes to remote learning during the semester.



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