

News for the Washington community

Published weekly (mostly)

August 20, 2021

Links to calendar and past newsletters on PTA website

Back to School Night is August 26 from 6-8 pm on Zoom. This is an important evening that all families are urged to attend. We will begin with a whole school meeting from 6 - 6:40 pm, followed by classroom meetings from 6:45 - 7:15 and 7:30 - 8 pm. Teachers will send out links for the classroom meetings and the two sessions will be the same so that families with more than one child may attend.

How to reach your child's teacher: all BUSD staff have emails that are firstnamelastname@berkeley.net

Tk: Janine Waddell janinewaddell@berkeley.net K: Denisia Wash denisiawash@berkeley.net

K: Ashleigh Talbott ashleightalbott@berkeley.net K: Hannah Kessel hannahkessel@berkeley.net

1st: Jamie Davidson jamiedavidson@berkeley.net 1st: Robert Taylor roberttaylor@berkeley.net 1st: Marie-Eve Thomaes marieevethomaes@berkeley.net

2nd: Luba Hancock lubahancock@berkeley.net 2nd: Lori Kasle lorikasle@berkeley.net 2nd: Ted Watson tedwatson@berkeley.net

3rd: Leila Clark-Riddell leilaclarkriddell@berkeley.net 3rd: Hilary Mitchell hilarymitchell@berkeley.net 3rd: Shelby Johnson shelbyjohnson@berkeley.net

4th: Dawn Bail dawnbail@berkeley.net 4th: Ja'Mein Sanchez jameinsanchez@berkeley.net 4th: Oscar Zarate oscarzarate@berkeley.net

5th: Annelisa Hedgecock annelisahedgecock@berkeley.net 5th: Mindy Geminder mindygeminder@berkeley.net 5th Laura Jokela/ Kris Kelly laurajokela@berkeley.net kristinkelly@berkeley.net

Campus opens at 8 am Please do not drop your child off prior to this time unless they are enrolled in the BEARS before school program. Thank you!

Washington can stay open during most instances when smoke from wildfires is in the East Bay. All classrooms and offices have HEPA 17 air purifiers that work effectively to lower the spread of COVID-19 with windows opened or closed. Please refer to this Air Quality Index (AQI) guidance to learn about how schools will respond to rising AQI levels.

At AQI levels over 150, we will eat indoors in the cafeteria, which already has markings for distancing in place.

Decisions about school closures for very high AQI level events are made by the Superintendent of Berkeley Schools.

COVID-19 Safety Protocols at Washington

Screening: Parents need to screen students using this form before leaving for school each day. This form does not need to be submitted to school.

Students should be kept home if they have tested positive for COVID-19, have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or if they have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 and they are not vaccinated or have symptoms. Symptoms, a positive COVID-19 test or diagnosis, or a close contact must be reported to their school's COVID-19 Liaison. COVID Liaisons must verify a close contact's vaccination status before the student can return to school. Students who develop symptoms during the school day will be immediately sent home.

Masks: Masks are required for all students and staff on campus. Gaiters and masks with valves are not acceptable.

Meals: Meals will take place outside as the weather permits, and students will be distanced to the extent possible.

Social Distancing: There are no longer social distancing requirements for schools. BUSD will recommend to our teachers and staff to increase distance between students when it is possible. Students will continue to be asked to socially distance to the maximum extent possible when they remove their masks for eating or drinking.

Positive Cases on Campus: BUSD will continue to be required to closely track cases of COVID-19 on our campuses and follow all state quarantining and reporting requirements. Families are expected to comply with all quarantining rules in the event that their child is determined to have been exposed to a COVID positive individual. Positive cases on school campuses will continue to be reported on BUSD's Confirmed On-Site COVID-19 Case Dashboard.

Quarantining: The rules for quarantining are now different for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals:

Vaccinated people who are asymptomatic do not need to quarantine after close contact with a COVID positive person.

Unvaccinated students must quarantine after a close contact with a COVID positive individual, but if both the person positive for COVID-19 and the contact were masked during the exposure, the close contact may continue to attend school for in-person instruction if they:

- (1) Are asymptomatic;
- (2) Continue to appropriately mask, as required;
- (3) Undergo at least twice weekly testing during the 10-day quarantine; and

(4) Continue to quarantine for all extracurricular activities at school, including sports, and activities within the community setting.

Additional quarantine protocols will be detailed in the BUSD Fall 2021 Safety Plan, available to the school community next week.

COVID Testing and Vaccines: BUSD will continue to provide COVID testing to Elementary Schools. The state recently announced requirements for all school staff to be vaccinated or submit to weekly testing. More details to follow.

For more information, please visit the BUSD COVID Safety Website The graphic below is from the COVID Safety Plan

Helpful resources for Washington families (to join, email wapta.communications@gmail.com)

WASHINGTON COMMUNITY FORUM

A moderated, opt-in discussion forum where parents can ask and answer each other's questions, make comments and share articles. This is also the place where you can advertise your local business or yard sale!

WASHINGTON WIRE washington-wire@googlegroups.com

This is the PTA's tool to share information about school-related issues. This is a "one-to-many" distribution list, and is only set up for outgoing information.

No after school Spanish class The District recently decided that classroom and other school facilities would not be available for rental by outside agencies during the school week. This means that the after school Spanish classes by Classroom Matters will not be permitted this year.

Library Checkout of Student Chromebooks

Last year, the board approved the purchase of 1,000 chromebooks to be checked out to students who don't have a device available to them at home. Students will be able to check these out as needed whether or not they are in independent study. The chromebooks will be divided between the schools proportionate to school enrollment, and will be checked out through the school library. Students will need a signed permission slip from their parents to check out the device, these will also be available in the library. Stay tuned for more information from Washington Librarian Jackie Overlid.

Grade level gatherings at the beginning of the year are a Washington tradition, designed to help families who will be travelling together up to graduation from Berkeley High get to know each other better and improve the k-12 school experience for all children. Stay tuned for information from PTA coming soon!

BUSD Music Guidelines

All music classes K-12 will run on a normal schedule. All students and staff will remain masked at all times. Students playing woodwind or brass instruments will be provided with specialized PPE

(instrument mask and bell cover), as well as singer's masks for choral musicians, at no cost to be worn at all times. All students should be distanced where/when possible. Woodwind and brass instruments are encouraged to play outside where/when possible. Singers will wear masks at all times. No instruments that are blown into will be shared (BUSD provides each student with their own instrument). Hand-held instrument sharing (like drumsticks) should be avoided, but should be sanitized between uses when sharing is necessary. [BUSD Music Safety Guidelines & FAQs](#)

School breakfast and lunch is free for all students during the 2021 school year. [Check here to see school lunch menu](#)

Calendar Reminders:

Aug 16 First Day of School!

Aug 26 Back to School Night - Whole school Zoom meeting [link here](#) Classroom teachers will send out their own links

If your child is absent for any reason, please email washingtonattendance@berkeley.net and copy your child's teacher. Thank you!

Questions or concerns? Please email Principal Katia Hazen at katiahazen@berkeley.net

