

2020-2021

Safe School Opening

Beacon Academy

For the health, safety, and well-being of our students and staff, Beacon Academy will be in Distance Learning with Supports for the 2020-2021 school year.

Distance Learning will provide a more quality education to all students, with less challenges and unknowns. We want to show students the best education model by committing to doing one model of teaching and doing it well.

In a Distance Learning with Supports Model, students will be engaged daily on Google Classroom with both real-time, synchronous learning, and pre-recorded, asynchronous learning, classroom chats and homework support, web programs, online assessments, and added weekly social time and hangouts for students monitored by staff.

We will continue to follow all the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Department of Education guidelines when bringing any high-need students in for further support.

The team also realized that a one-size fits all plan is not practical for all families. However, the hope is that families stay committed to the community, rigor, and charter of Beacon Academy.



COVID Leadership Team Lenses

- Keeping our staff and families safe
- Meeting the needs of our students, staff, and families
- Improved Distance Learning
- Being equitable in all three plans
- Continued communication lanes between all stakeholders
- Expect and Accept change and growth both personal and organizational

Three Scenarios of Learning



**IN-PERSON
LEARNING –**

STUDENTS BACK TO
THE BUILDING



**HYBRID
LEARNING –**

A COMBINATION OF
IN-PERSON AND
DISTANCE
LEARNING.



**DISTANCE
LEARNING –**

GOOGLE
CLASSROOM AND
WORK PACKETS
FROM HOME

Glossary of Terms

- **distance learning:** Students and instructors are not in the same physical space. All students have access to appropriate educational materials and receive daily interaction with their licensed teacher(s) as outlined in the State of Minnesota's Safe Learning Plan.
- **hybrid learning:** Students and instructors are only in the same physical space a couple of days of week. The other days they are distance learning. All students continue to have access to appropriate educational materials and receive daily interaction with their licensed teacher(s).
- **asynchronous learning:** a form of learning where students work at their own pace to meet daily or weekly deadlines, and interactions with teachers and peers are through pre-recorded video or online text using programs like Google Classroom and email.
- **synchronous learning:** a form of learning that involves live classroom activities, meetings, and small group instruction where students are online with their teacher and classmates at the same time.

A little more clarity for all...

- **Asynchronous learning** is when a teacher and a student interact with learning activities in different places and at different times. Students engaged in asynchronous learning can complete their work any time of the day that works best for a student and their family.
- **Synchronous learning** is when a teacher and a student interact with learning activities in different places at the same time. Students engaged in synchronous learning must be online when the teacher has scheduled the meeting. At various times during the week, students will have the opportunity to engage with their teachers, participate in group chats, view web-based lessons, and have Zoom meet-ups with teachers and their classmates.

Beacon Academy's Safe Opening Plan for Fall 2020-2021

Beacon Academy will offer families a Safe Opening Plan through: **Distance Learning with supports**

- All students K-8 will engage in virtual, online learning
- Learning through Google Classroom & work packet supportive materials
- Supports:
 - On site support time for high need students (high need special education students, one on ones and setting 3 students, homeless students, etc.)
 - Increased number of laptops and hotspots for families
 - Enhanced technology support system for families and training options
 - More mental health supportive measures and monitoring
 - Increased classroom connection opportunities and supports

Beacon Academy's Safe Opening Plan for Fall 2020-2021

Benefits of Distance Learning:

- Families will know that their students' teachers have the most knowledge of grade level content
- Consistent check-ins built into the year for families and teachers to meet virtually and discuss progress and challenges
- Virtual Back to School Nights and Conferences
- Increased technology support from the school's technology team
- More technology hotspots and laptops issued for families in need
- Internet security features being added to all checked out laptops

Beacon Academy's Safe Opening Plan for Fall 2020-2021

All students and staff prior to getting on a bus or entering the building will go through our screener:

- Are you currently, or have you in the last 10 days experienced any of the following symptoms?
 - Fever 100.4+, shortness of breath, new/worsening cough, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, muscle pain, excessive fatigue, new severe headache, new nasal congestion, new runny nose
- Are you or anyone you've had close contact with waiting for a COVID-19 test result?
 - This includes tests performed for any reason
 - Close contacts are defined as within 6 ft. of each other for longer than 15 minutes (includes household members)
- Have you had close contact with anyone in the last 14 days who tested positive for COVID-19?

Beacon Academy's Safe Opening Plan for Fall 2020-2021

Student Face Covering Guide

- Face Covering Means
 - A cloth or paper disposable mask, scarf, bandana, or religious face covering that covers the mouth and nose completely
- Face Shield Means
 - A clear face shield that extends below the chin in the front, to the ears on the sides and with no gap between the forehead and the headpiece
- Face Covering Does Not Mean
 - Any mask that includes a valve, hole, gaps, or openings to facilitate easier breathing, or made of a material such as mesh with such openings
- Face Covering Required
 - When someone is moving through the building – including classrooms, hallways, communal spaces and public spaces
 - When I am outdoors in situations where social distancing cannot be maintained
 - On all Beacon Academy transportation

Beacon Academy's Safe Opening Plan for Fall 2020-2021

Student Face Covering Guide

- Face covering exemptions
 - Individuals with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that makes it unreasonable to maintain a face covering
- Face covering alternatives
 - Face coverings are preferred; however, face shields will be allowed for students if they comply with the above description of what a face shield is
- Face Coverings may be temporarily removed
 - When engaging in physical activity where the level of exertion makes wearing a face covering difficult
 - To eat and/or drink
 - When working alone in a classroom/office

Beacon Academy's Safe Opening Plan for Fall 2020-2021

What does Elementary school look like?

- Students will start each day in a Morning Meeting building community
- Homeroom teachers will hold engaging synchronous lessons for whole group instruction at least three times a day four times a week
- Spanish and Specialist teachers will hold engaging synchronous lessons for whole group instruction at least twice a day four times a week
- All synchronous lessons will be recorded and posted inside Google Classroom for students to watch if they missed them.
- Students will have one asynchronous day a week where they will be able to conference with their teacher, do small group work, or catch up on the recorded videos of the live lessons
- Special Education classes are held in-person on a rotation or via distance learning; there are no asynchronous days
- Small group synchronous lessons may be taught by our Student Support Services Team or those services may push into the homeroom teachers' lessons.

Example of a possible Distance Learning Schedule – Kindergarten through Grade 5

	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Wednesday	Friday
8:15-9:00	Teacher Planning Time		Asynchronous Learning Day Student check-ins Student Support Team Meetings	Teacher Planning Time	
9:00-9:30	Morning Meeting (synchronous)			Morning Meeting (synchronous)	
9:35-10:10	Math (synchronous)			Literacy (synchronous)	
10:15-10:50	Science/Social Studies (asynchronous)			Science/Social Studies (asynchronous)	
10:55-11:30	Spanish (synchronous)			Art (synchronous)	
11:35-12:05	TEACHER OFFICE HOURS (homework help)			TEACHER OFFICE HOURS (homework help)	
12:10-12:40	Lunch			Lunch	
12:45-1:20	Recess/Play			Recess/Play	
1:25-2:00	Literacy (synchronous)			Math (synchronous)	
2:05-3:00	OFFICE HOURS (homework help)			OFFICE HOURS (homework help)	
3:05-4:15	Teacher Planning Time		Teacher Planning Time		

Beacon Academy's Safe Opening Plan for Fall 2020-2021

What does Middle School look like?

- The middle school schedule is an A and B day schedule where students can attend live sessions over two days
- A day will be meet live Monday and Thursday
- B day will be meet live Tuesdays and Friday
- Wednesday is an asynchronous day for student check-ins and student support
- Special Education classes are held in-person on a rotation or via distance learning; there are no asynchronous days
- All live, synchronous lessons will be recorded and posted within the teachers' Google Classroom sites

Sample Middle School Schedule for the synchronous lessons

	Monday--A Day				Tuesday--B Day		
8:15-9:00	Teacher Planning Time						
9:00-9:30	CPR with all teachers				CPR with all teachers		
9:35-10:35	Soc 8	Sci 8	Specialist	Geom Honors 8	Eng 8	Algebra 8	
10:40-11:40	Soc 8	Heritage Spanish	Spanish 2		Eng 8	Spanish 3	
11:45-12:15	OFFICE HOURS						
12:20-12:50	Open						
12:55-1:55	Spanish 1	Sci 8	Specialist		Advanced Spanish	Algebra 8	Spanish 2
2:00-3:00	OFFICE HOURS						
3:05-4:15	Teacher Planning Time						

Sample Middle School Schedule for the synchronous lessons

Wednesday	Thursday--A Day			Friday--B Day		
Asynchronous Learning Day	Teacher Prep					
	CPR with all teachers			CPR with all teachers		
Student check-ins	Sci 8	Specialist	Geom Honors 8	Eng 8	Algebra 8	
	Soc 8	Heritage Spanish	Spanish 2	Eng 8	Spanish 3	
Student Support (also on other days)	OFFICE HOURS					
	Open					
	Spanish 1	Sci 8	Specialist	Advanced Spanish	Algebra 8	Spanish 2
Team Meetings	OFFICE HOURS					
	Teacher Prep					

Beacon Academy's Safe Opening Plan for Fall 2020-2021

Specialist and Spanish

- Specialist classes will teach live synchronous lessons once a day four times a week
- Spanish will continue to be taught all year
- Specialist grade level rotation for the year will be as follows:

Grade Levels	K-1	2-3	4-5	6-8
Quarter one	Technology	Music	Art	PE/Health
Quarter two	Music	Art	PE	Technology
Quarter three	Art	PE	Technology	Music
Quarter four	PE	Technology	Music	Art

Beacon Academy's Safe Opening Plan for Fall 2020-2021

Engagement in Learning

- Teacher office hours are when they are available to answer questions and provide additional support
- You may email teachers at any time, however, they will be responding during the school day
- Attending Live Sessions will be the closest thing to in-class learning, therefore, we encourage attendance at those sessions
- If a live session is missed it is critical for students to watch the recording of the missed lesson
- Students should be checking their Beacon emails frequently as this is one of the most effective ways for teachers to be in contact with students
- Time expectations for student daily work:
 - K-2—maximum of 2 hours per day
 - 3-5—maximum of 3 hours per day
 - 6-8—maximum of 4 hours per day

Beacon Academy's Safe Opening Plan for Fall 2020-2021

Student Attendance

- Attendance will be taken each day.
- Students must have actual documented student-teacher or parent-teacher interaction to be counted as present via one or more of the following examples:
 - participation in live class that may include, but is not limited to, respecting time and responses of others, being engaged in content, contributing to the lesson and completing “must-dos” for the session
 - phone call with student or parent
 - submitting completed coursework electronically
 - submitting completed coursework visually identified by teacher along with record of teacher contact; this would be documented in teacher’s grading system
 - text message exchange

Beacon Academy's Safe Opening Plan for Fall 2020-2021

Grading

- Elementary will be graded on the E, P, S, and N scale (Exceeds grade level, Proficient, Student is working toward proficiency, or Needs support).
- Middle School will be graded on the A through F scale.
- Below are some examples of how we are increasing rigor while still meeting student needs:
 - By providing synchronous learning with the flexibility of accessing those recorded lessons at a later time
 - By increasing the number of technology devices distributed to families
 - Having uniform office hours where students can get help from teachers
 - Including one day per week of asynchronous learning to provide individual support

Beacon Academy's Safe Opening Plan for Fall 2020-2021

Social and Emotional Wellness & The Beacon Outreach Team

- The Beacon Outreach Team provides confidential support, resources and follow up services to the entire Beacon community-students, families and staff members.
- Our hope is to provide a culture of care and support to those who may be experiencing various difficulties as we navigate through an international pandemic and a distance learning model. Difficulties may be related to social emotional learning, mental health, and wellbeing.

Beacon Academy's Safe Opening Plan for Fall 2020-2021

Communication Pathways with students and families

- Monthly Family Communication Nights
- Google Classroom
- Zoom Meetings
- Surveys
- Parent and Student Email Notifications
- Main office communications via text and email
- Teachers are checking their voice messages twice a day during office hours
- Work bins are sent home
- Monthly materials will be sent home
- Administration is on site daily

Beacon Academy's Safe Opening Plan for Fall 2020-2021

Student Expectations

- I understand that my classes can be attended live or watched via a recording
- I understand that my teacher will post new learning materials each morning. I will check to see what I need to do.
- I will follow the directions and complete the assignments provided by my teacher.
- I will ask my family for support if I need help.
- I will know my teacher's office hours and contact my classroom teacher if I have a question.
- I understand that I am required to complete and turn in the work electronically or send it back physically (if online is not possible)

Beacon Academy's Safe Opening Plan for Fall 2020-2021

Family Expectations

- I know how to access the materials my child needs for Distance Learning
- I understand how my child's teacher is going to communicate with us during Distance Learning
- I am prepared to support my child and contact their teacher with any questions about the coursework during Distance Learning or support my child in contacting the teacher
- I will contact main office at Beacon Academy if I am currently not receiving SchoolMessenger messages by phone, text, or email.
- I will contact the school if we do not have internet and/or WiFi access at home
- I will contact the school if we do not have an appropriate device at home for Distance Learning

Beacon Academy's Safe Opening Plan for Fall 2020-2021

Getting Help During Distance Learning – communication pathways

- **Call, email, text your teachers** - Your teachers will be available during the regular school day to answer emails. Voicemails can work, but the teachers will be checking them remotely from home, so there may be some lag time in response.
- **Additional support** - Your student's case manager, 504 Coordinator, English Language Teacher, ADSIS teacher, Title I teacher, or Early Intervention Teacher are available via phone or email daily.
- **Nutrition Needs** – call or email the main office if you cannot get to our building and we will help find a solution
- **Administration** - The administrative team is available via phone or email

Beacon Academy's Safe Opening Plan for Fall 2020-2021

Technology Support Line

- If you are having technology issues, please use this email and direct your questions and concerns to our technology team:
- distancelearningsupport@beaconacademy.com
- By phone:
 - Eldred Bach
 - 763-546-9999 Ex.1117

Beacon Academy's Safe Opening Plan for Fall 2020-2021

Students with IEP and 504 plans

- Beacon Academy is committed to continue to provide our students who live with disabilities a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). We are steadfast in our commitment to meet the requirements of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B and Part C and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. We are working closely with the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and all our contracted services to continue to provide the best possible service to your students.
- The Special Education Team is working on unique and appropriate ways to communicate, support, and deliver high quality special education services. All IEPs and 504 plans will continue to be implemented. The Special Education Case Managers will be reaching out to the students and families directly to help set up more supports and communication tools.

Beacon Academy's Safe Opening Plan for Fall 2020-2021

Distance Learning Supports for high needs special education students

- Beacon Academy's Distance Learning with supports is a unique way to support the highest need students on-site within the special education program.
- Beacon Academy's setting 3 and high needs setting 2 students will be on-site for support on a rotating weekly schedule.

Beacon Academy's Safe Opening Plan for Fall 2020-2021

English Learners

- Beacon Academy will continue to support the needs to the English Learners. We will work to communicate with the families who do not speak English as a primary language and support the learning at home through scaffolding supports through our English Learner Teacher.
- English Learners will continue to receive researched based, appropriate support that will allow them to access the homework and online content. The English Learner Teacher will be reaching out to all students within the program to make certain supports are in place and all materials are accessible to the families.

Beacon Academy's Safe Opening Plan for Fall 2020-2021

Essential Worker Childcare Program

- On-site daily from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
- Two hours of academic time support, however the childcare is not bringing kids to the synchronous lessons
- The Tier I list of eligible workers list:
 - Healthcare and public health
 - Law enforcement, public safety and first responders
 - Food and agriculture
 - Judicial Branch (essential services)
 - National Guard (activated under a Governor Executive Order)
 - Educators and school staff providing in-person instruction or caring for children of critical workers
 - Childcare and school-age care providers

Beacon Academy's Safe Opening Plan for Fall 2020-2021

Nutrition Program

- We will be utilizing the USDA's SFSP waiver and offering all students daily free meals
- Where: Beacon Academy's Main Entrance off Louisiana Ave. N.
- What: breakfast and lunch pick-ups – one stop for both
- When: Starting on Tuesday, September 8, during these times
 - 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
 - 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
 - 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Beacon Academy's Safe Opening Plan for Fall 2020-2021

Family Resources

- Minnesota Department of Human Services
 - <https://mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/get-help/food.jsp>
 - <https://mn.gov/dhs/food-emergency/>
- Food Shelves
 - [Prism Mpls](#)
 - [ABC Food Shelf](#)
 - [NEAR Food Shelf](#)
 - [St. Paul's Food Shelf - Hanover](#)
- United Way 211
 - <https://www.211unitedway.org/>
 - Toll Free: 800.543.7709
 - Text your zip code to 898-211*

Beacon Academy's Safe Opening Plan for Fall 2020-2021

Family Resources

●Mental Health

- [Minnesota Mental Health Emergency Resources](#)
- [Youth Suicide Warning Signs](#)
- [SAVE- Suicide Awareness Voices of Education](#)
- [Teen Line Online](#)
- [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#)

Beacon Academy's Safe Opening Plan for Fall 2020-2021

Family Resources

- If you are in crisis, you may want to contact a crisis line to speak to a mental health professional immediately. Please see below for crisis resources:
 - Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255
 - Crisis Text Line: text "HOME" to 741741
 - Hennepin County Crisis Response: 612-348-2233
 - The Trevor Lifeline (for LGBTQ youth): 1-866-488-7386
 - Trans Lifeline: 1-877-565-8860