



**Melissa Kircher**  
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**Karen R. Royer**  
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**July 18, 2020**

## **COVID-19 Update**

### **To the Students, Parents and Community of Bethel-Tate Local School District:**

The Administration has been working for the past few months on how our district will return to school while in the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. As I've stated in the past "the administration and myself have been in constant collaboration with one another. We have been in frequent communications with our neighboring and regional educational leaders. Finally, we continue to follow the guidelines of our State and Local Leaders and Health Officials as to how we should operate as an organization during this time of crisis".

Mr. Burns and myself have been part of two separate Southwest Ohio regional superintendents groups since early on of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. We were also members of separate advisory panels among these leaders, which further dove into the specifics of educational and operational needs for the upcoming school year.

Through these various collaborations we have obtained substantial knowledge pertaining the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. By means of these efforts we were able to fulfill the needs of providing of the Board of Education, solid and factual information regarding a safe return to school.

On Thursday evening Mr. Burns and I presented two COVID-19 Pandemic Conditions of Operation Models for the 2020-2021 school year. The two comprehensive models provided guidelines for a Full and a Blended learning return. The primary goal for both plans is the safety of our students, staff and community against the exposure and spread of COVID-19.

Our Board had a very difficult decision to make. I very much appreciated the professionalism that was portrayed in deliberating and deriving to a conclusion. The Board unanimously has chosen the Full Return Learning model for the start of the 2020-2021 School year.

Mr. Burns, the Principals and myself will be working for the remainder of the summer on the development of an academic plan that corresponds to the COVID-19 Virus Pandemic Conditions of Operation, Return to School Strategy – Full Return Learning Model. We will be reaching out to all our staff seeking input. This is a District Plan and requires input from everyone for it to become successful.

#### **Mission Statement**

Our mission is to ensure success for all students in schools that are welcoming, professional, and excellent.

#### **An Equal Opportunity Employer**

Posted on our website in the COVID-19 Page contains all our information concerning the COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis:

<https://www.betheltate.org/Content2/156>

We have recently added the latest documents and information on this page including:

- Full Learning Return Model
- Blended Learning Return Model
- Facial Covering policy
- Recent staff and parents surveys results.

Please understand that the Local and State COVID-19 pandemic conditions are very fluid and subject to change. We as well as the other school districts in Ohio have been inundated with frequent updates causing modifications of decisions.

The Administrations task is to provide our Board of Education the most pertinent information possible provided from guidelines and orders established from local, and state governing and health officials regarding the return to school plan. Based upon this information the Board provides the active plan decision for the District.

There will be more to come in the very near future. I miss so much our staff and students and am looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

Please continue to be safe and well.

**Sincerely,**

**Melissa Kircher  
Superintendent**

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