An Important Message from HISD’s Interim Superintendent, Dr. Lathan

Please view this video message from Dr. Lathan about the re-opening of schools and making the decision to return to in-person or continue virtual instruction.

Link: https://youtu.be/-O2PMINo6wo

For more detailed information on COVID-19 safety measures in place, you can read the district’s Communicable Disease Plan (CDP) here. The plan can also be accessed on our reopening page. This plan was developed by the district’s CDP Task Force — a working group made up of employees, educators, parents, community members, and healthcare officials. The plan outlines the district’s health and safety protocols to ensure the safety of students and staff. Protocols developed by the district include school entry screening, physical distancing, personal protective equipment, hygiene, cleaning and disinfection, and infection.

Also, HISD has created a brief informational video:
“How School Will Look Like” video Link: https://youtu.be/BtL7zzlB6M

Make Your Decision Known: Deadline Friday

Thank you to the parents of 370 Bush students that have already responded to let us know their decision! (Data as of Tuesday night)
Now parents can record their decision to return to in-person learning or continue virtual learning for each child on the Parent Connect site in the Forms section. This special online form will only be available from Monday, September 21 - Friday, September 25. If you do not respond, the default is in-person learning. This is your choice for the rest of the school year. However, you will have opportunities throughout the year (every 6 weeks) to make a change, if needed.

If parents have a concern about returning their child to in-person learning, then the recommendation is to continue with virtual learning for another 6 weeks. Once a selection is submitted for a student to be taught in-person or virtually, that selection is final for the current six weeks period and cannot be updated until the selection window is opened again.

If parents are unable to access Parent Connect to record their decision, then they may contact the school secretary, Zonia Flores, via email at zonia.flores@houstonisd.org to let her know your child's first name, last name and in-person or virtual choice. After she has verified that you are the parent, then she will input your choice in Parent Connect.

**In-Person Learning at Bush Elementary**

Many parents want to know EXACTLY what in-person and virtual instruction will look like starting October 19 before they make a decision. Middle schools and high schools know what their in-person learning will look like because of larger staff numbers and being able to do A/B hybrid schedules. Large elementary schools are having to wait until the numbers from this parent decision are shared with schools and for teachers to officially make their decision to continue virtual teaching or resume in-person teaching. We won't have all these data points until the week of October 5.

Here's what we do know about in-person instruction. All safety and healthy guidelines will be followed to ensure the health of all students, faculty, and staff. All students, as well as faculty and staff, must wear a mask covering the nose and mouth at all times inside the building and while on school grounds with the only exception when eating or drinking. Classrooms will have fewer than 20 students depending on room size. Students will not be sharing materials and/or books/textbooks. Students will have limited movement in the building and will only leave the room for restroom breaks, recess, and dismissal. The "switch" teacher will come into the classroom to provide instruction as will the specialist teachers. Breakfast and lunch will be eaten in the classroom. All students will have 30 minutes of outside recess daily (weather permitting), but are unable to use the playground equipment, soccer, basketballs, jump ropes, etc. to reduce transmission touch points. Based on numbers returning, you might not have the same classroom teacher, but it would be a Bush teacher. With virtual learning, you might not have the same teacher or even a Bush teacher.

Arrival and dismissal will also look different. The Bush Wellness Team will have to screen every child every day before leaving their car, bus, daycare van, or as a walker/biker starting at 7:20 a.m. Starting at 7:20 a.m., students will be questioned in their car about their health and have their temperature taken, then if the temperature is below 100 and not complaining of or visually experiencing a COVID symptom, they may exit the car and walk into the building to sit
outside the classroom 6 feet apart from others if before 7:30 and into the classroom if after 7:30. Students will be responsible for opening and closing their car door. This same procedure will be followed in the bus lane for the bus and day care riders. Walkers/bikers will be screened outside in the open air where the 2 sidewalks meet in front of the office. Walkers will truly be walkers. This means the child or child and parent have walked/biked from their home to Bush. We will not accept children in this line that came from parents parking their cars and letting them out or parking and walking them over. We must reduce all large gatherings and groups and stay socially distanced. The safest and only way to arrive at school in a car is through the carpool lane. Yes, the morning drop off will take longer, but we MUST be safe and socially distance ourselves which is most easily done in a car.

Dismissal will start earlier and will be staggered. We will only dismiss certain grades at a time with their siblings into the carpool lane. Parents will need to wait in their cars at certain, assigned areas before pulling into the carpool lane at their assigned time.

## Accessing Parent Connect

In case you’re having difficulty accessing Parent Connect, try using Chrome as your browser.

## Parent Training - Getting to know the HUB for Parents

“Getting to know the HUB for Parents” will be offered at the dates below from 5 to 6 p.m. Parents do not need to register for the webinar. The links are available on the HISD @ H.O.M.E. page under the webinar section at this link or you can access the webinars from the live links below.

### Parent HUB Course Dates - Links to Webinars

- **Thursday, September 24, 2020**
  - 5 PM
  - [Getting to Know the HUB for Parents](#)

- **Tuesday, September 29, 2020**
  - 5 PM
  - [Getting to Know the HUB for Parents](#)

- **Thursday, October 1, 2020**
  - 5 PM
  - [Getting to Know the HUB for Parents](#)

- **Tuesday, October 6, 2020**
  - 5 PM
  - [Getting to Know the HUB for Parents](#)
**PK Lottery 2021 - 2022**

On September 19, HISD School Choice opened up the system to apply for the PK lottery. The Bush PK program is only for families that are already enrolled at Bush Elementary and have another child that will be 4 on or before September 1, 2021. Students must meet PK eligibility requirements such as being economically disadvantaged or qualifying as English as a Second Language.

The site will accept applications from September 19, 2020 - April 30, 2021. Families will be notified by HISD School Choice on May 20 if their child was accepted into Bush Elementary's PK program or if their child is on the waitlist. Go to HISDChoice.com to apply. Bush Elementary's PK program is only one class with 22 students that must be comprised of siblings of currently enrolled Bush students. The only way to apply for and be part of the lottery for Bush Elementary's PK program is to apply online at the address shared above.

**PK-2, Sp.Ed. Parents' Night**

**WHEN**
Thursday, Sep. 24th, 5-6:30pm

**WHERE**
This is an online event.

**MORE INFORMATION**
This event will take place via Microsoft Teams.

**Student Fall Holiday**

**WHEN**
Monday, Sep. 28th, 7:30am-3pm

**WHERE**
This is an online event.

**MORE INFORMATION**
No School

**SPECTACULAR SCIENCE**

The Spectacular Science Word for the week of September 21st is **balance**.
Information about joining the Cub Scouts

Cub Scouting is fun for the whole family. In Scouting, boys and girls start with their best right now selves and grow into their very best future selves. It’s fun, hands-on learning and achievement that puts kids in the middle of the action and prepares them for today – and for life. Come launch your adventure in Scouting today!

Text “Cub Scout” to 31996 now or click here to join Scouting today! There is a place for everyone in Scouting. If you need help finding a Cub Scout program in your area please call us (713) 756-3349.

Translating Virtual Paw Prints

One of the reasons we selected this tool for our Paw Prints is the program’s ability to translate the content into almost 100 different languages. Use the translate tab at the upper right to change the Paw Prints into another language. We want all our families to be able to have access to this content regardless of their first, second, or even third language.

IN THE BUSH ZONE

Just as a reminder, to attend Bush Elementary, students must be residing in the Bush Elementary zone. Virtual Bush Elementary is only for students that live in the Bush zone. Bush Elementary is overcrowded in some grade levels and we’re having to send families to other schools, even in a virtual setting.
Are you receiving our PTO E-Blasts on Fridays?

If not, be sure to sign up for PTO Weekly E-Blasts today at www.BBEPTO.com and add Publicity@BBEPTO.com to your safe sender list.
Likewise, “BBEPTO“ on Facebook so you never miss an important post!

Join the PTO Today!

Have you joined the PTO yet? One $20 family membership covers all children in your family for the entire 2020-21 school year. As an added bonus, each PTO membership will receive a complimentary copy of our annual Directory full of important school and class information as well as advertisements and coupons from area businesses.
Join online at www.BBEPTO.com to purchase your membership today!

Birthday Book Club

Help your child celebrate their birthday with a book and a Pawprints shout out from Ms. Rose! The Birthday Book Club has been redesigned to accommodate virtual meetings and social distancing.

New this year: $10 Electronic Marquee display only (no book or shout out)

Visit www.BBEPTO.com for more details or to make your purchase.

Still on the lookout for Room Parents—what a great way to get involved!

Each class needs a Room Parent to act as a liaison between the teacher, the PTO, and their class. You can be a Room Parent even if you work full time. If you would like to be a Room Parent, please talk with your teacher TODAY to see if the position is still available.
Have you submitted your Directory information yet?

Want to connect with other parents in your class? The Directory will help with that! Go online to submit your information so we can make a comprehensive Directory. Best of all, you can choose how much—or how little—you want to share. But don’t wait... complete your information submission today!