



# Blanchester Local School District

Empower. Prepare. Inspire. Collaborate.

## Reopening Frequently Asked Questions

### (1) Virtual Learning

**With the online schooling this year, do the students have to log in at certain times to get credit or will they have a date that they will be due? Will the teachers be setting up zoom videos explaining the work that is being asked to complete?**

Virtual Learning Academy, offered through Jefferson County ESC, is a self-guided, and self paced computer program that is NOT physically taught by Blanchester teachers. There are not required times to log in and complete the lessons. Students can ask questions through the online platform that will be answered by their assigned teacher (which may or may not be a Blanchester teacher, depending on availability.) There is a series of lessons that the student will need to complete. There are 18 units per semester class. These classes MUST be completed by Winter break. There may be computerized videos embedded in the lesson, however there will be no assigned zoom meeting times with a teacher.

If your child is on an IEP, students will receive additional support per their IEP.

You can get more information about the VLA platform by watching this [tutorial video](#).

**If a student is in the gifted program, will online schooling affect them continuing to participate in the gifted program/classes?**

A gifted student will remain identified as a gifted student if you choose to forgo traditional schooling. However, VLA does not offer gifted services so we would not be able to serve your child in this learning format.

**Is there a date that we need to change from virtual registration to traditional schooling?  
Can I cancel an already submitted google form or virtual learning?**

The last day to cancel or enroll in the Virtual Learning Academy is July 31, 2020. If you have already submitted your request for the online option, please contact Mr. Lynch via email at [lynchd@blan.org](mailto:lynchd@blan.org) to cancel this request.

**I keep reading over the opening and I see that online schooling is an option but can you do it all year or only a semester?**

Yes, it is an option to do VLA for one year. We will have another sign up for VLA for the second semester in late fall.

**If a child chooses the online option will he/she be able to continue participating in after school activities. For example, coming to the school only for the band class and then leaving. Also after school activities as scheduled.**

Yes, the VLA student will be able to participate in co-curricular and extracurricular activities. The VLA student will not be able to report to school for any classes offered during regular school hours. If your child participates in marching band, they will ONLY be permitted to attend assigned practices after school.

**We have a tablet, printer and internet access. Will that do for what will be needed for VLA?**

The VLA curriculum works best on a computer. Chromebooks can be provided to you by Blanchester Local Schools. While internet access is required, access to a printer is not.

**Does both/either option provide enriched work?**

The traditional option will continue to differentiate instruction for all students (intervention, enrichment). VLA will not provide enrichment for students. If your child is on an Individualized Education Plan, they will have additional instruction per their IEP.

**If a student qualifies for free/reduced lunch but chooses option 2, is any meal provided?**

There is not an option for meals to be provided if you choose option 2.

**Are there additional costs for virtual learning?**

There are no additional costs associated for VLA through Jefferson County ESC.

**Do I need to contact someone about what option I chose and if so who do I contact?**

To choose the VLA option, please fill out the form found [here](#) by July 31, 2020.

**How do we find out who support teachers are? Are they Blanchester teachers?**

Support teacher positions will be offered to Blanchester teachers first, however we cannot guarantee that all online teachers will be Blanchester teachers. Your child will find out who their assigned support teacher is once VLA begins.

**How do we get Chromebooks for students if needed?**

We will schedule a pick up day for those students who will be participating in VLA. This date will be announced prior to the August 24 start date. Please check social media for more information.

**How will the curriculum be assigned or chosen?**

The guidance counselor and/or principal will determine the classes that are required for each student.

**How will families be updated with information on virtual learning?**

Families will be updated on student progress through the virtual learning platform offered by Jefferson County ESC. Parents will be given a login code to access the progress of their child.

## **(2) Safety**

**If Clinton County goes red and mandates masks in indoor spaces, will masks be mandatory?**

School districts are exempt from the mandate and it would be a local school board decision at that point. As of today, if the county was to go red, the Governor has left it up to the local school boards to evaluate and arrive at a decision.

**Why not ask teachers to take temperatures?**

Students should not be at school if they are exhibiting symptoms of illness or a fever of 100 or above. Therefore, parents should screen their children at home for temperature and COVID symptoms to eliminate exposure. Parents will keep children at home if they display any symptoms. Students and staff should not be at school with any signs of cold or illness.

**Will teachers be given a 14 day quarantine package for if/when they get the virus so they do not have to burn what sick days they've established?**

No. Employees are not given any "quarantine package". As in the case of any illness, employees have access to their sick days, Family Medical Leave (FML) and two temporary policies that the board approved at their 7/20/20 regular board meeting. These policies are GBRAA - Emergency Paid Sick Leave and GBRA Family and Medical Leave Act Expansion. Both policies comply with the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and are in effect until December 31, 2020. Policy GBRAA states: "Emergency paid sick leave will be paid as provided in FFCRA. Eligible full-time employees are entitled to up to 80 hours of paid emergency sick leave for reasons described in FFCRA. Eligible part-time employees are entitled to paid emergency sick leave for the number of hours worked, on average, over a two-week period.

**What happens if a staff member or student conceals their positive test for coronavirus?**

Any student/staff member with an epidemiological link to a case of COVID-19 must stay home and consult with their county health department and/or their health care provider and follow recommendations accordingly. We will be notified by the local health department if any staff or student tests positive.

**How are you going to do any social distancing in the classrooms when you have all students each day?**

Putman will have plexiglass between students sitting at tables, all teachers will be wearing masks or face shields, students are strongly encouraged to wear masks, teachers will be clearing their classrooms of excess furniture to allow for more room between student desks.

**What are you doing to deep clean outside of regular cleaning?**

The district has a monthly contract with an outside company to come in and clean all buildings with an antimicrobial disinfectant to guard from viruses and germs that lasts 30 days with routine cleanings. Our custodians will continue to disinfect all high touch areas throughout the school day. Since our custodial staff will not be monitoring and cleaning during lunch times, they will have additional time devoted to cleaning high traffic areas.

**Will students switch classes during the day or stay in the classroom?**

Students will be switching classes throughout the school day.

**Can my children bring other types of water bottles to school, other than transparent?**

No, only transparent water bottles are permitted. These do not have to be disposable bottles. Any type of bottle that staff members can easily see through is acceptable.

### **(3) Student Attendance**

**Will students have their attendance affected if they have to go into quarantine?**

No, as long as they complete all required work while they are quarantined.

### **(4) Lunches/Food**

**Will there be hot lunches?**

Students will be served the same traditional lunches as they have been in the past. Hot lunches will be served on disposal trays that allow students to eat in their classrooms.

**I have a daughter who is a possible upcoming preschooler so when it says meals provided by the school does that mean the children can't pack lunch & breakfast items or does that mean it's all free?**

Preschool students do not eat lunch at school, they receive a snack. There is a snack fee for Preschool students. Students in grades K-12 are permitted to pack a lunch if they desire.

### **Are preschoolers still bringing snacks?**

All snacks are included in the snack fee. Preschool students do not need to bring their own snack. Due to food safety guidelines, preschool students do not bring snacks to school.

## **(5) School Supplies**

**Will the school supply list that was mailed out with the last report card be the same or will it have some changes?**

The supply lists will remain the same. However, there are some additional items that each building will need:

Hand sanitizer

Antibacterial soap

Clorox wipes

Paper Towels

## **(6) Recess**

**I was wondering how specials will work for Putman students. Will they get to interact with other students?**

Students will get to attend specials (gym, music, art, etc) as normal. They will be able to interact with peers following the same safety guidelines used in the classrooms.

**Will students have a recess or not?**

All students will have recess Kindergarten-5th grade. Students will not be allowed on the playground equipment at this time. Each building will be working out staggered recess times.

## **(7) Drop-off**

**Are we allowed to come in (Putman) for the first day of school to take pictures?**

No, parents will not be permitted to enter the building.

**When are Drop off times? I know when the school day starts, however what time can we drop off our students?**

**Putman:** Drop off 8:45 (start time is 8:55)

**Intermediate:** Drop off 8:30 (start time is 8:40)

**Middle:** Drop off 7:40 (start time is 7:50)

**High School:** Drop off 7:40 (start time is 7:50)

Students will not be counted tardy if they are in line waiting to be dropped off.

## **(8) Transition**

**My son is leaving Putman and going to the intermediate school, how are you going to help these kids transition to the new building without an open house?**

All buildings will be doing a virtual open house. We will not be having an in person open house for this school year.

## **(9) Kindergarten**

**What are the dates for kindergarten round up? Is August 3 and 4th and the assessment 10-13 still the same?**

Due to COVID, Blanchester Local Schools will be transitioning to Final Forms. This is an online registration platform. Therefore, we will not be holding in person registration on August 3 and 4. **PLEASE WATCH for an update regarding Final Forms**, as we will need Kindergarten parents to fill out forms by August 2, 2020. Kindergarten Assessments will take place in person, August 3-7. Preschool registration will be held in the same format.

**Does kindergarten start on the 24th as well? (Originally was 26 and 27th)**

Kindergarten students will start a week later than the rest of the students. Their staggered start dates will now be August 31 and September 1, 2020. Parents will need to bring students to the school for R-KRA assessments August 24th-August 28th. This is a different assessment than the initial assessment that occurs in early August.

## **(10) Bus Service-**

**\*\*Students who have other options for transportation are encouraged to access those modes of transportation in lieu of riding the bus. There will be a Google Form asking for information if you plan on bringing your child to school instead of using the bus service\*\***

**I'm wanting to know about bus service, picking up and dropping off protocol.**

During pick up we will be loading the bus from back to front, meaning students picked up first will sit in the back seats and so on. Students will unload from front to back. Students will be required to have assigned seats. We will keep windows down as much as possible. Self-Social distancing will be expected at bus stops. Additionally, the wearing of masks is strongly encouraged. This past spring the Board of Education eliminated multiple route stops for students. Therefore there will only be one route stop per student. The board also eliminated students riding a later bus to get home due to after school activities (practice, detention, clubs, etc.)

**Will there be bussing for High School students?**

Yes, the Board of Education reinstated High School bussing at the board meeting on July, 20, 2020.

**Will only siblings sit together on the bus?**

No. There may be additional students sitting together outside the family unit.

## **(11) Miscellaneous**

**Did you discuss this plan with any other districts in our area?**

Yes, several times throughout the course of the summer.