

Dear PBA Families,

It has been a difficult time for everyone. I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding as our community and our nation has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. I am proud of our school community and how we have worked together to continue educating and caring for our students amid these demanding and difficult circumstances.

It has been mandated by Governor DeSantis that all schools will reopen in August. PBA students will return no earlier than August 17th. However, we are also prepared to re-institute distance learning if the Governor deems it is necessary. PBA has worked diligently on our reopening plan and can offer the following two options for PBA families. You must inform the school's front office of your choice by Thursday, July 23, 2020...

Traditional Face to Face Instruction:

PBA students will return to school 5 days a week in classrooms with enhanced safety and cleaning procedures in place. The student's day will be structured keeping CDC and AAP guidelines in mind. PBA's general plan strategies include but are not limited to; physical distancing, modified room layouts, modified communal space layouts, modified food service, increased cleaning schedule, suspension of visitors/volunteers on campus, entry screening, isolation of those showing symptoms, focus on promoting behaviors that reduce spread.

Innovative Learning Option:

PBA will offer an innovative learning option upon request. This option is available for students primarily via Google Classroom. Innovative learning with Google Classroom will mirror the innovative classroom experience. The day will begin and end at the same time as the in classroom instruction. Homework and assessments will be handled as per the student's classroom teacher. Students will be expected to participate and engage in the learning process as if they were in the classroom. PBA will confer with parents to ensure students have access to online resources. It is understood that parents/guardians will provide an environment conducive to learning (access to technology, safe and quiet space during daytime).

Our enhanced safety and cleaning procedures include, but are not limited to...

- PBA will conduct daily screening of students and faculty for symptoms and temperature as recommended by the CDC.
- Students are to wear masks (cotton or surgical) on common areas.
- Face shields may be a consideration for students (or staff) unable to utilize masks.
- Barriers are being installed at front office desks.
- PBA will increase the number of COVID-19 related signs and messages as well as place them in highly visible areas posted in varying formats to ensure that information is communicated as widely as possible.
- Students will be encouraged to complete proper hand washing education via video or in person demonstration.

- Staff will be provided gloves and cleaning supplies to clean high touch point surfaces throughout the day as needed.
- Cleaning of the school environment (conducted multiple times daily) will include but not limited to: high touch point surfaces (doorknobs/handles, rails, lights, etc.), all desks, chairs, windows, all work areas, restrooms
- Janitorial staff will wear masks/face shields and gloves while cleaning restrooms.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be placed throughout the school, including each classroom and each building entrance/exit.
- Cleaning will be performed multiple times during the day and after all students and staff have left for the day.
- PBA will limit access to the facilities and limit the number of people on site.
- Access to the building will be limited.
- PBA has altered the arrival and dismissal process for faculty and students to accommodate screening of individuals before entering the school and to minimize interaction.
- PBA will immediately isolate any staff member, student, or visitor who may display signs of COVID-19 symptoms in a separate room strictly used for the purpose of COVID-19 isolation. Such individuals will be sent home or sent to a healthcare facility depending upon the severity of their symptoms.
- Water fountains will be refitted as bottle filling stations. Each student will receive a personal water bottle provided by the school.
- Modified room layouts will include the removal of extraneous furniture from classrooms to allow for more distancing and desks will all face in the same direction.
- School schedule will be altered to limit congregation in common areas.

More detailed information will be provided and questions concerning transportation and food service will be answered at our Mandatory Orientation on July 31st. Reminder letters for the orientation will be sent out in a few days. Arrival times will be assigned per grade level.

Please visit our webpage and follow our social media for up to date and accurate information. We fully understand your concerns about health and safety, innovative learning, the importance of face-to-face instruction, parents needing to work, the economy, and all of the other unexpected consequences of not being in school or being in school in a traditional method. If for some reason, we can't be in a conventional school situation, we will find the best way to have our students safely in our buildings as frequently as possible to ensure the health and well-being of all.

Thank you for your continued support and positivity as we strive to do what is best for all of our students and employees.

Sincerely,



Madhu Longani
Palm Bay Academy Director