

# BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## MAURICE J. TOBIN SCHOOL ESCUELA MAURICE J. TOBIN

JESSICA EKHOMU  
Assistant Principal  
Subdirectora

EFRAIN TOLEDANO  
Principal  
Director

JOHN HOLLY  
Director of Instruction  
Director de Instruccion

September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Good evening Team Tobin Families,

I hope that everyone in our school community was able to get some rest and relaxation over the tough last few months that we have been experiencing. I also want to thank all of the families that have already completed the survey indicating whether their child will come to school remotely or hybrid. Those of you who have not completed this survey please do so as soon as possible.

Below are pieces of information that community members need to know, which will allow our school to function as smoothly as possible this school year.

### Visitors Not Allowed

- As a means of keeping students and staff healthy and safe, visitors - including parents or caregivers - will not be allowed to enter BPS school buildings for any purpose other than to drop off or pick up their student(s), all of which will be limited to the school's administrative space.

### Food and Arrival

- Upon entry to school, students will pick up a grab & go breakfast and take it to their classroom where it can be enjoyed during the first 15-20 minutes of the school day. Grab & go breakfast will be served at the main entrance, where K-5 students enter the building, and at the cafeteria entrance, where 6-8 students enter the building.
- Families who choose to remain remotely engaged in the Remote/ At Home Learning Model can access a week's supply of student meals (breakfast and lunch) through the District's specified meal distribution sites, with priority given to the 16 sites (see below for sites nearest to the Tobin) where school meals have been offered since March 2020. Sites will be open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. For students who choose to remain fully remote, we are still working to confirm if and how to continue home delivery of student meals for special education students with door-to-door transportation provisions in their IEPs.
  - **Boston Latin School** - 78 Avenue Louis Pasteur
  - **Boston Latin Academy** - 205 Townsend St.
  - **Mason Elementary** - 150 Norfolk Ave.

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- **Orchard Gardena K-8 School** - 906 Albany St.
  - **Timilty Middle School** - 205 Roxbury St.
  - **Blackstone Elementary School** - 380 Shawmut Ave.
- For all students in school lunch will be eaten in the classrooms.
  - Families who participate in the hybrid learning model can access student meals (breakfast and lunch) on the days that their cohort group is learning on-site in school buildings by picking up three days worth of student meals at the end of their school day on Tuesdays (for Group A students) or on Fridays (for Group B students).

### Technology

- It is one goal of the BPS to ensure that all students have access to a Chromebook and have reliable Internet access. If you're child does not have a Chromebook or there is not access to reliable Internet please let us know so that we can help on this.
- Parents may visit the dedicated BPS Chromebook Help Page at <https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/laptop> for additional information.
- Tech help hotline for families: 617 635 8873

### Transportation

- All students and staff who ride a BPS yellow school bus will be required to wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth at all times. Masks must be in place prior to boarding the bus, stay in place throughout the ride, and remain on while exiting the bus. Students who arrive for bus pickup without a mask will be provided a disposable mask, but continued failures to bring and properly wear a face covering will be reported to the school leader and addressed at the school level pursuant to the applicable Code of Conduct.
- Buses are being equipped with hand sanitation supplies. All students will be expected to sanitize their hands before boarding a bus.
- Students will be seated one per bench on the bus; as an exception, household members will be permitted to sit on the same bench.

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- Every person will do a home health screening prior to boarding a BPS bus (see attached).
- Any student seeking an exception to the mask requirement will need to process it through the District process. Drivers and monitors will not review or approve mask exception requests.
- During morning pick up, students will be assigned to a specific seat on the bus upon boarding to decrease passing on the bus. In the afternoon, students will be assigned seats at the school level such that the student closest to the front exits the bus first and so on through the end of the route.
- Students who have complex health care needs and/or are mobility impaired will continue to receive transportation services through BPS yellow school buses. Bus drivers and monitors will be provided with training and additional personal protective equipment to ensure the safety of our students and staff during transport to and from school.
- Consistent with existing District policies, no one other than the driver, monitor(s), and students assigned to a bus may enter that bus. Family members are prohibited from entering buses. Only approved BPS employees may enter buses to assist with safety or maintenance issues should they arise. Every person entering a bus must wear a mask, sanitize their hands, and maintain physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.
- Families are not permitted to enter buses to assist students with CSR systems for students to which these systems are applicable.
- If a student is reported to a nurse's office as being suspected of COVID-19 exposure or infection, and that suspicion is well grounded as defined by public health guidance, that student will be returned home by means not utilizing a BPS bus driver or monitor. Within student and health privacy requirements, bus operations will be notified of any students removed from bus routes so as to ensure that the health and safety of our transportation staff is appropriately protected.

### Attendance

- Teachers will take student attendance in *Aspen* on a daily and/or class basis. Specifically, teachers will enter

40 SMITH STREET, ROXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS 02120 \* 635-8393, AREA 617 \* FAX 635-7900

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attendance for every class in Aspen K0-12 (homeroom attendance for self-contained classrooms and class-attendance for specialties, ESL, resource room, and grades 6-8).

- **Parents/caregivers are responsible for ensuring their child attends school every day, whether for on-campus or remote learning. Schools and districts must continue to investigate extended absences and make and document reasonable efforts to locate the student and determine the reason for nonattendance.** In addition to attendance officers, the Tobin will identify staff members who could support more robust efforts to follow-up with absent students.

### Grading

- Consistent with current law, all Boston Public Schools must assess all students based on the district's and school's performance criteria for students during the 2020-21 academic year. This performance criteria must be consistent across on-campus, hybrid, and remote learning environments. For example, if students typically receive a letter grade (A-F) for a particular course, students who are participating remotely must also receive a letter grade. Although the grading policy will be implemented equitably across all learning scenarios, we will consider exemptions in extreme circumstances.