

**Welcome Back - here we go 2022!**

Bonnie Branch Middle School <dnr@hcpss.org>

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To: Claire Striebich <Claire\_Striebich@hcpss.org>

# Welcome back Sharks - here we go 2022!

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**January 2, 2022**

*Dear BBMS Families,*

We hope you had a terrific winter break and that you were able to spend happy times with friends and family. As we prepare to return to school tomorrow, we know that COVID-19 continues to weight heavily on our minds. Over the break, there was communication from HCPSS and the Howard County Health Department regarding quarantine and safety measures that Bonnie Branch Middle School will follow. These guidelines can be found here: <https://news.hcpss.org/news-posts/2021/12/returning-to-school-following-winter-break/>

This includes how long students/staff need to quarantine (a minimum of 5 days), testing in schools, and home health checks. Masks and vaccines continue to be the most effective method for minimizing one's risk of exposure. BBMS has plenty of masks on hand, and we will be receiving KN95 masks in the near future.

**Additionally, all after school activities will remain on hold for now until we get more guidance about when it is safe to resume those.**

If you ever have questions about how many cases are active at BBMS, you can visit the HCPSS COVID-19 Dashboard: <https://covid.hcpss.org/>

We do get questions about outdoor lunch and recess from time to time, so please take a moment and review the following guidelines from HCPSS. We will continue to offer students the choice to eat outside

## **Lunch/Recess:**

Exercise outdoors is healthy and is strongly encouraged. It provides a break from the regular school routine, a chance to get some outside air, and an opportunity to

burn off excess energy. If conditions preclude the full recess time, even a five minute break can revitalize children and prepare them for more sitting and academic learning.

Children are expected to wear clothing appropriate for forecasted conditions when participating in recess, outdoor lunch, or other outside activities. The decision to go out or stay in for recess is the decision of the administrator at individual schools. On rare occasions due to extreme weather, a decision may be made at the school system level.

**The following factors are considered in determining if recess, outdoor eating, physical education, or any other outdoor activity is to be held outside:**

- Temperature and humidity
- Wind chill
- Heat index and air quality
- Age of students
- Length of time outdoors
- Adequacy of the children's clothing
- Condition of the playground
- Falling precipitation (more than a sprinkle or mist)
- Thunder and lightning

**Generally, it is assumed that students will be outside for recess, outdoor eating, physical education, and/or other outdoor activities when the temperature combined with the wind chill is not less than 20 degrees Fahrenheit or the heat index reading is less than 95.**

Children with certain health conditions may need special accommodations during extremely hot or cold weather. Parents of those children should provide medical documentation and may be consulted to determine if other arrangements are necessary. During hot weather, teachers should provide students a water break before and after recess. Additionally, any student who shows signs of heat exhaustion or overheating should be allowed a water break during recess.

As always, please reach out to us if you have any questions about school policies or if you have concerns about any procedures in place. We are here to provide the safest possible environment for learning for everyone and appreciate your help and support in making this possible.

***Go SHARKS!***

***Dr. Cockley, Principal***

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Mail - Claire Striebich - Outlook

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