



BFS REOPENING ROADMAP, PART 1

2020–2021 SCHOOL YEAR

The seal of Brooklyn Friends School is a large, light gray watermark in the background. It is circular with the text "BROOKLYN FRIENDS SCHOOL" at the top and "ESTABLISHED 1867" at the bottom. In the center is a shield with a seven-pointed star.

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INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



Dear Families,

I hope this transition to summer has allowed for meaningful points of connection, rest, and reflection. In the final days of the school year, many of you participated in a comprehensive family survey, and we are grateful for the care you took in providing your feedback. Following

our commitment to remain in close communication with you, this document is the first layer that you are receiving this summer about plans for the 2020–2021 school year. Later in July, there will be an additional comprehensive communication about our plans, which will also provide insight into the survey results. The results have been instrumental in our task force design work thus far. This July communication will coincide with a Connect and Talk where I will virtually meet with all of you to describe the specifics and allow space and time for your questions. A separate invitation will be forthcoming.

While I'll go into more details when we meet in July, I will share that one of the results was very clear— our families have a strong desire for

their children to be physically present in our buildings and engaged with their BFS friends and teachers this September. We fully agree!

Over the past several weeks, members of the Leadership Team have been engaged in intensive planning to determine the best way to utilize the spaces in our school buildings, maintaining the integrity of our program, while most importantly, keeping at the forefront the well-being of all of our students and colleagues. This work has been done in the context of several task forces spanning core areas for consideration in our reopening plan. Among other considerations, physical distancing needs require us to be creative and thoughtful as we look at every aspect of space in all of our buildings. The configuration of our classrooms, common areas, and program schedules are all being reviewed in detail with the goal of maintaining a developmentally appropriate and safe program and schedule for all.

I end this introduction by expressing gratitude to all of you for your patience and support as we have navigated this intricate process of stewardship, prioritizing the centering of our community's values and purpose. It is our sincere commitment to continue this journey with strength, focus, and grace.

The background features a large, faint watermark of the Brooklyn Friends School logo. The logo is circular and contains the text "BROOKLYN FRIENDS SCHOOL" at the top and "ESTABLISHED 1867" at the bottom. In the center of the logo is a shield with a star above it.

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PLANNING &

CONSIDERATIONS

CONSIDERATIONS

PHYSICAL VS. VIRTUAL

To account for health and space considerations, what aspects of our program would need to continue virtually?

SPACE CONSIDERATIONS

To maximize space use and physical distance needs, what creative evaluation of every space within each of the school buildings—including square footage, configuration options, access to technology, and more, is possible?

SCHEDULING FOR STUDENTS

To ensure a balanced and strong experience for all, what schedule needs within our program (and for arrival and departure) will we identify that centers health considerations and allows for students to experience a thriving program each day?

SCHEDULING FOR COLLEAGUES

To maximize engagement with students, allow for idea sharing and collegial partnership, and ensure health and safety, what creative possibilities exist for all teaching schedules?

Our Core Priorities

2020–2021 School Year

Remain committed to and grounded in our mission, Quaker values, principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice, and institutional integrity as we adapt to changing conditions.

Provide the deeply relational, spiritually grounded, and positive learning experience that is distinctive to Brooklyn Friends School under all conditions.

Utilize and optimize all available and necessary resources to ensure both the present and long-term strength, sustainability, and vitality of BFS.

Ensure the health and well-being (physical, emotional and spiritual) of students, colleagues, and families when our school is physically open or periodically closed.

Keep the confidence and earnest appreciation for BFS as a Friends school community among our colleagues, families, prospective families, alumni, Brooklyn Monthly Meeting and community partners.

WHAT WE KNOW FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

To the extent permitted by state and local authorities:

- All students, **Preschool through 8th grade will attend physical BFS every day.** We are using the full complement of our three buildings' spaces to accomplish this.
- **9th–12th grade students will alternate between virtual and physical BFS** on a regular schedule including synchronous and asynchronous instruction. The alternating design will allow for health and safety requirements to be met for our oldest students.
- Classes for Preschool–8th grade will be divided into **smaller family pods** to maintain healthy physical distancing.
- Due to health and safety considerations, we will only be having **virtual afterschool offerings.**
- To account for health and safety, **arrival and departure schedules** will be staggered. **Elevator access** in both buildings will be limited to one passenger, prioritizing people with physical considerations and needs.

WHAT WE ARE STILL DETERMINING

- How to safely have experiences to allow for the physical wellness of our students to be met.
- How to provide elective experiences to our middle and high school students in ways that preserve their health and safety.
- How to manage the flow of students in and out of our buildings in a healthy, manageable and physically distanced manner.
- How to experience a daily schedule that allows for our students to experience our program in a comprehensive and meaningful way.



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MAJOR DATES

DATES

SEPTEMBER 2020

Sept. 10 (Thursday) First Day of School: Kindergarten–12 (half day for Kindergarten and 1st Grade)

Sept. 15 (Tuesday) First Day of Preschool

Rosh Hashanah falls on the weekend of Sept. 19–20

Sept. 28 (Monday) Yom Kippur (no school, buildings closed)

OCTOBER 2020

Oct. 12 (Monday) Indigenous Peoples' Day (no school/buildings closed)

NOVEMBER 2020

Nov. 25–27 (Wed.–Fri.) Fall Break (no school/buildings closed)

Nov. 30 (Monday) Professional Development for Colleagues (no classes)

DECEMBER 2020/JANUARY 2021

Dec. 21–Jan. 1 (Mon.–Fri.) Winter Break (no school/buildings closed: Dec. 24, Dec. 25, Dec. 31, Jan. 1)

Jan. 4 (Monday) Classes Resume

Jan. 18 (Monday) Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (no school/buildings closed)

FEBRUARY 2021

Feb. 15 (Monday) Presidents' Day (no school/buildings closed)

Feb. 16 (Tuesday) Professional Development Day (no classes)

MARCH 2021/APRIL 2021

Mar. 22–April 2 (Mon.–Fri.) Spring Break (no school)

March 29 (Monday) Passover (buildings closed)

April 2 (Friday) Good Friday (buildings closed)

April 5 (Monday) Classes Resume

MAY 2021

May 31 (Monday) Memorial Day (no school/buildings closed)

JUNE 2021

June 4 (Friday) Preschool Closing

Week of June 7 Class of 2021 Commencement (final date to be confirmed)

June 7 (Monday) US Closing

June 8 (Tuesday) LS and MS Closings



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CLOSING

CLOSING FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



I share with you these details so that you can begin to plan and prepare for the upcoming school year. I must stress, however, that this is our hope and our plan. While we are minding the Department of Education (DOE), we are planning for what we believe is in the best interest of our Brooklyn Friends School students and are simultaneously planning for contingencies. These may include

beginning the school year virtually if New York City is placed back under a stay at home order. It may also include launching physically as described above, and then having to re-enter a stay at home order after the school year begins. Due to the inclusion of Virtual BFS programming in all reopening models, the input you have provided in the family survey is being thoroughly reviewed and will inform the continued growth of our virtual offerings for all students moving forward.

We acknowledge that you have questions; thus, as I stated earlier, this is the first of several communications you will receive this summer. As the task forces work to finalize a comprehensive plan, we will be sending you more details. We look forward to welcoming you in July for a live presentation.

As the summer continues, I wish you health and points of positive connection and joy.

In Friendship and Partnership,


Crissy