Parents,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year. BES is excited to meet and welcome our 3rd graders to our school. We are also excited to see our returning students. This year is definitely going to look different, but we have worked hard in preparation for the return of the students. We are all beyond excited to finally welcome students back in the building.

Just a quick reminder, students will be required to wear a mask on the bus and when entering and exiting the building. They will also be required to wear a mask during transitions (going to connections, lunchroom, media center, etc.) If social distancing is not possible in the classroom, and/or a teacher requires masks to be worn due to health reasons, students will also be required to wear a mask. We do know that students will need breaks from wearing a mask. I have asked teachers to make sure and include breaks in their day. Also, all employees and students will have their temperature checked when entering the building.

If your student isn’t feeling well or showing any positive signs of Covid-19, please keep them home. Also, if your student must be tested for the virus, please notify the school immediately. Students and staff are not allowed on campus if they are awaiting test results. We are taking all precautions to make sure we keep our students and staff safe. (Below you will find some important information from the Department of Health for parents)

If we do have a student test positive in your student’s classroom, you will be notified by phone. If we are not able to reach you by phone, a letter will be sent home with the student. The phone call and/or letter will guide you through the proper procedures. If a classroom has a positive case, those in direct contact with the student will be quarantined for 14 days. The other students in the class will be sent home for the rest of that day and the following day for cleaning. On the days that students are at home, they will continue learning through digital learning (with their Battlefield teacher).

Each school has a cleaning technician that is helping us during the day keep the hotspots, bathrooms, and classrooms clean. Classrooms will be sprayed down several times a day (PH7Q) to help prevent the spread of germs. Outside of the normal cleaning, our night custodians will spray down our building with PH7Q each night before leaving to make sure the building is clean each morning when students and staff arrive.

Please make sure you have updated your child’s information sheet so that we have multiple emergency contacts. We need to make sure we can get ahold of all parents if the need arises.

Due to the safety concerns related to COVID-19, we are only allowing students and employees to enter our building at this time. This decision is extremely difficult for us because we truly value our parents and want them to be part of our team. However, the safety of our children and staff is our priority.
** Third grade parents, we will have staff members helping walk your students in during the first week of school to help them familiarize themselves with a new building. Staff are stationed throughout the building during the entire year to help guide students during transitions.

If you need to check out your student, parents will ring the doorbell at the front door and the receptionist will answer. The parent will tell the receptionist what they need, the name of the student, and show their identification in the camera. The receptionist will proceed with calling the student to the office, making note of the time, reason, and person checking out/in the student then walk the student to the front door. This same process will apply to students being sent home by the school nurse.

I’m excited to start this year. It’s been a long time since we’ve had students in our building. My prayer is that we are all together in the building very soon. No matter if you are learning from BES or from home, we are all still Battlefield. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to us and we will work together to find answers. We have to work together as a team.

**We are Respectful, We are Responsible, We are Safe, WE ARE BATTLEFIELD!**

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**INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS: Returning to School Amid COVID-19 Pandemic**

**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

As the school year begins the Georgia Department of Public Health, Department of Education and Governor's Office are committed to keeping your student, family and community healthy. Please review the following recommendations.

1. Talk to your child about COVID-19 and remind him/her to adhere to social distancing guidelines as instructed by his/her teacher.

As schools begin to reopen, students may worry about getting ill with COVID-19 or express anxiousness over changes made in the classroom and school setting. Parents play an important role in helping students make sense of changes and guidance in a way that is honest, accurate, and minimizes anxiety or fear. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has created guidance to help adults have conversations with children about COVID-19 and ways they can avoid getting and spreading the disease.

2. Daily, assess your student for the below signs and symptoms PRIOR TO SENDING THEM TO SCHOOL or the SCHOOL BUS using the following checklist:

If your child has any of these symptoms, they should stay home from school and all extracurricular activities. You should call the child's healthcare provider.

- Fever (>100.4°F) or chills
- New cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Muscle or body aches
- Congestion or runny nose
- Headache
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

3. Develop a plan to pick up your child from school, should they become ill

4. Ensure your emergency contact information provided to the school is up-to-date

   a) Your school will need to communicate with you regarding closures, contact to cases, and your child's health regularly throughout the school year. Ensuring your information is correct will ensure you receive timely communication from the school