



Burlington County Institute of Technology

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Dear BCIT Parents, Guardians and Students,

As the summer days wind down, we are preparing for the in-person, full time return of students on September 8, 2021. In addition to preparing our buildings, the administrative team has been working diligently to ensure that we continue upon the path of innovation and responsiveness to the health and wellbeing of all students entrusted to us. Today, I'm writing to provide you with updates since my July 26, 2021 letter and to highlight a few key changes on our campuses.

Within the past week, we have received revised guidance from the New Jersey Department of Education for the start of the school year, including the governor's most recent Executive Order (No. 253) for mandated vaccinations for staff who work in schools. This follows Executive Order No. 251, which mandates that *students, staff, and anyone in school buildings, including guests, must wear masks*. The latest changes have been incorporated into the revised version of our plan, which can be found on our website: [BCIT Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction \(Draft\)](#). The Plan incorporates suggestions from parents, guardians, and staff who participated in the Pandemic Response Team as well as comments received from the community. We welcome any additional comments or suggestions, which can be shared by emailing bcitsafereturn@burlcoschools.org. Please keep in mind that this plan is subject to change as we receive ongoing guidance from the Governor, CDC, and Burlington County Department of Health.

This week, our staff will continue preparing for the start of the school year. New students have received their student IDs, Chromebooks, and schedules. The principals have shared letters with opening week information. Students will be required to complete, through the Genesis Portal prior to the start of the school year, a COVID-19 screening form. This form acknowledges the student's understanding of daily symptom self-reporting and monitoring and identification of vaccination status as it pertains to contract tracing. More information will follow on related internal protocols that principals will have in place for health and safety within the buildings.

We understand that there may be times where students may have to quarantine and there are questions about access to continuity of education. Though addressed in the plan on the website, in these cases, the administration will ask for documentation from students who have to quarantine as a result of testing positive, a district in-school case, having had close contact due to a family member, or an outside contact with a positive COVID-19 test. We will make arrangements for continuity of instruction.

We are committed to implementing ongoing health and safety measures, providing mental health supports to our students and families, and extending the learning and educational opportunities for our students to



flourish. To that end, I would like to highlight a few of the changes that our parents and students can expect to see this year:

- We continue to experience record enrollment and the need for a waiting list given the interest in, and value of, a BCIT education
- Three new CTE programs are being added this year:
 1. Marine Mechanic Technology on Medford Campus
 2. Transportation, Logistics and Distribution (TLD) in Warehouse Management on West Campus
 3. Information Technology with Specialization in Cyber Security – Medford and West Campuses
- Eight-week long accelerated classes for enrichment in math and science have been created for students identified to participate
- An Aspire online homework program is being offered to support student extended learning at home
- Classroom push-ins are being done and individual conferences are being held with math students in tested areas – individual plans will be created
- BCIT has been recognized by the New Jersey Department of Education as a Lighthouse District for Equity
- A program is in place to support student mental health, which includes a mental health screening tool and staff training for re-acclimation of students
- We have updated apps and technology to support a 1:1 Chromebook environment virtually and in-person
- More classes have been created to reduce the number of students in classes and assist with addressing learning acceleration

On behalf of the Board of Education and administration, I wish all of you a safe and productive school year and a restful end to the summer.

Sincerely,

Dr. Christopher Nagy
Superintendent