

August 17, 2020

Dear BSA Students & Parents,

I just received approval of our proposed virtual class schedule and I wanted to share it with you right away. Our goal in designing this program has been to provide programs that are as close as possible to the in-person arts programs you appreciate. Arts leaders have worked inside the schedule below to provide a well-rounded program in their discipline. Those specific art class schedules will be shared in the next few days.

You may have seen the general high school class templates provided by the school system in recent days. They would certainly work for many schools, but BSA's arts programs require a different solution.

As you know, BSA has more classes each day and each week than other BCPS high schools. We wanted to include all of the arts learning possible in this virtual setting.

We also need to consider student health and the limits of stamina in a virtual learning environment. We were very conscious of the tiring effects of long days in front of a computer and wanted to balance healthy student engagement and adequate time in class.

All Students will attend class on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday will be devoted primarily to academic coaching and connecting with students. The sequence of periods listed below will be the same as the periods students would follow were we able to do in-person learning.

Classes in **Periods 1-5 will be taught on Monday & Thursday**, while classes in **Periods 6-10 will be taught on Tuesday & Friday**.

GROUP A Classes (MONDAY & THURSDAY)		GROUP B Classes (TUESDAY & FRIDAY)	
Period	Time	Period	Time
Period 1	9:00am – 10:00am	Period 7	9:00am – 10:00am
Period 2	10:00am - 10:50am	Period 8	10:00am - 10:50am
Period 3	10:50am - 11:40am	Period 9	10:50am - 11:40am
Period 4	11:40am - 12:30pm	Period 10	11:40am - 12:30pm
Lunch	12:30am - 1:20pm	Lunch	12:30am - 1:20pm
Period 5	1:20pm - 2:20pm	Period 6	1:20pm - 2:20pm
Office Hours/Optional Arts Practice	2:30pm - 3:30pm	Office Hours/Optional Arts Practice	2:30pm - 3:30pm

Now that this foundational structure is in place, we can address many of the other important aspects of starting the school year.

In the next day or so, we will be publicizing a series of twelve student and family orientations. They will begin next week and we hope you will be able to attend one of them.

There will be orientation sessions focused on each grade level, as well as opportunities to attend a more general session. We want to hear what you need as well as to share information you will need to access virtual learning at BSA.

We will also be sharing exciting new developments in curriculum at BSA as we seek to represent all of our students in our learning.

Lastly, we'll be publicizing a monthly series of conversations with parents and school leaders that will extend throughout the year.

Please know that the BSA staff has been thoughtfully engaged all summer with creating a satisfying program for your children. They have been extremely generous with their time and I am extremely thankful for their enthusiastic efforts.

We are excited to bring the BSA community together soon and experience the amazing creative energy that each person brings.

Warm thoughts,

Chris Ford