

# BURRILLVILLE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT



## Distance Learning Academy 2020 - 2021

The purpose of the Burrillville Distance Learning Academy (BDLA) is to provide an academic platform that allows students who are enrolled in the school district to access core curricular content while remaining at home due to the global pandemic. (The BDLA is not an option that is available to students who are homeschooled. Homeschooled students may participate if they re-enroll in the district.)

The BDLA is available to students who are medically unable to return to school. It will also be available to students who choose to remain home for the duration of the pandemic.

Families can sign up to access the Burrillville Distance Learning Academy for a minimum of a semester (secondary) or trimester (elementary), but a commitment of an entire year is preferred.\*\*

Families who opt to have their children participate in the BDLA attest that

- Their children have consistent, reliable internet access (Chromebooks will be provided by the school department) and
- Their children will participate in school daily, according to the school's schedule, just as if they were attending in person, and
- Their children will work independently to complete assigned tasks from teachers, and
- They and their children (as appropriate) will communicate with and respond to teachers regularly to ensure that students are keeping pace with their in-person peers, and
- They will comply with all relevant school department policies.

The Burrillville Distance Learning Academy will be implemented in one of two ways:

**Scenario A (the most likely scenario):**

Students who are in a virtual model will be assigned to a typical schedule and placed on teacher rosters as if they were attending school in person. Teachers will be provided with the technology to provide **direct instruction** in several possible ways: they may “livestream” lessons from the classroom or record lessons to be posted on their Google Classrooms for virtual students to view or upload instructional videos from other sources. It is expected that most teachers will use a combination of these methods. Virtual students will be expected to log in to classes during their regularly scheduled times and to participate in synchronous learning activities with their in-person classmates. All class assignments will be posted in Google Classroom.

In this scenario, teachers will be expected to provide **direct instruction** for a minimum of approximately  $\frac{1}{3}$  of each total class period (22/65 minutes at the high school level and 15/45 minutes at the middle school and elementary level). The remaining  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the class period will be a combination of small group or individualized instruction and independent work. Additionally, teachers will be expected to make direct, scheduled, “live” contact with their virtual students minimally once per week. Live contact may be individual or small group. It may occur as part of the regular class period (during the time when students are working independently and the teacher is meeting with small groups or individuals) or at another time at the teacher’s discretion.

**Scenario B: (the less likely scenario)**

A hybrid model will be implemented. Some students may follow **Scenario A**. Additionally, Burrillville Teachers who are unable to return to the classroom due to issues related to COVID-19 may be assigned cohorts of students for virtual instruction. These cohorts will be based upon teachers’ certifications and needs of the students in the BDLA. This is a direct instruction model and students will be expected to engage in daily, scheduled classes with their teachers.

For students in grades 6-12, Distance Learning may also include a self-directed/independent study model where students work at their own pace to achieve grade-level standards-proficiency. Students access coursework through an online platform. Staff of the Burrillville School Department will monitor students in the BDLA in order to provide academic support and ensure continued progress; however, this is not a direct instruction model. Students will be provided with a district chromebook for completing the work.

The Burrillville School Department will make the final determination about the virtual instruction scenario as more information becomes available regarding re-entry models and family needs. Parents and students will not have the option to select one scenario or another.

It should be noted that the BDLA is offered due to the health and safety concerns caused by the Covid19 pandemic. Our preference is always for in-person, face-to-face, teaching and learning. Students at home may not receive the same level of personalized instruction and attention that students who are physically with their teachers receive.

\*\*This does not apply to students who become ill or are under quarantine.