

August 24, 2020

Dear Bengal families,

The last two weeks at Lucy Beckham High School have been filled with joy and excitement as our staff has moved in, and we have worked to bond as a team and a family. All staff members are working tirelessly to prepare for every possible scenario for our start on September 8, 2020. As I am sure you understand, opening a new building in the middle of a pandemic has presented extraordinary challenges but nothing we can't overcome with your support.



Lucy Garrett Beckham  
High School

**Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Karolyn Belcher**  
Chief Academic Officer

**Joseph Williams, Ed.D.**  
Executive Director  
Secondary Learning Community

**Anita Huggins**  
Executive Director  
Secondary Learning Community

**Anna E. Dassing**  
Principal

Important choices are being made based on district and state guidelines in conjunction with medical professionals and DHEC. Safety for our students and staff will remain our top priority. Before the pandemic, we made plans for tours and orientations for everyone; please know that we are confident we have creative ways to introduce you and your Bengals back to the school as soon as possible.

We are working with CCSD to consider the preferences of parents for returning Bengals to school and to offer options for student learning, beginning September 8. Schools were asked to safely return as many students as possible (given space and staff availability); offer a "temporary remote" option that would allow students to learn from home from their schools' teachers; and house a Virtual Academy in the event there were families who preferred a minimum of one semester-one year of asynchronous learning for their children. Thank you for giving careful consideration to the preference survey.

We are taking into account several variables as we prepare to welcome back students:

1. **Building capacity** - All of our classrooms have been assessed and will be reconfigured to allow the maximum number of occupants based on the CCSD and DHEC safe restart requirements for social distancing and sanitization protocols. For LBHS, most of our classrooms will be able to accommodate only 12 to 15 occupants safely. For the specifics on these safe restart protocols, please visit the [CCSD Safe-Restart](#).
2. **Staffing capacity** - Beckham teachers are anxious to return to the classroom and welcome back students. When surveyed, they were asked to gauge their comfort level returning to teach small groups of students or whether they preferred offering "temporary remote" learning. Teachers responded that they were either willing to teach in-person or remotely from their classrooms.
3. **Student capacity** - Our school enrollment is currently 763. We hope to offer in-person learning to approximately 25%, or more, of our school population as possible.

We are working with CCSD to utilize a tiered approach, using data, to determine which students may return for in-person learning. This includes, but is not limited to, students' learning needs, family preferences, and course options.

We have been working days, nights, and weekends to solve this puzzle. Our scheduling team is working hard to make sure we respond to all inquiries and emails; thank you for your continued patience.

We will soon be back in touch with more information about how your Bengal will start the year.

## **Logistical Details**

### **Safety Protocols**

- Please note that safe restart protocols require the wearing of masks at all times in the building (or outside if social distancing is not possible) and on buses. Face shields and “gator” style masks/scarves are not acceptable. Please consider this requirement carefully if your child is selected for an in-person return on September 8. Only those with an authorized physician’s note for a medical exception are exempt. Any student who is non-compliant regarding wearing a mask or observing our safety protocols will be re-assigned to virtual instruction.
- We will adhere to all CCSD protocols and details on these are linked here for easy access. [CCSD Safe-Restart](#)

### **Schedules**

- All LBHS classes, whether virtual or in-person, will operate on the “normal” schedule and daily class attendance. The schedule will be announced soon.
- All students, whether virtual or in-person, are fully enrolled as Beckham students and are welcome and encouraged to participate in all extra-curricular activities.
- Student government, clubs, and service organizations will be meeting virtually for the foreseeable future. Athletic participation and competition are governed by all of the rules and regulations of the SC High School League.
- We eagerly anticipate the opening of school on September 8 and the opportunity to engage with all of our students and Bengal families in ensuring the highest quality of virtual or in-person educational experience possible.
- We are also working on a plan to issue Chromebooks to all students and get needed materials and paperwork to everyone safely. This may involve a short visit to the school in very small groups and a drive through scenario for those that are not comfortable coming into the building. We are also working on virtual tours and videos with instructions to support the logistics of starting school and learning how to use our learning management system, CANVAS.
- All students have been assigned to a CREW class with a teacher that will serve as their CREW leader. CREW leaders will be reaching out to these groups of students in the coming weeks to provide support for both students and families as we navigate these uncharted waters together. CREW is focused on providing strong social and emotional support for students as well as academic advisement. At Beckham, we are all CREW! It’s what we do!

## Transportation

- **Student Driving** - In the Fall and Winter, we had determined NOT to allow students with driver's licenses to drive and park at school for safety reasons related to new traffic patterns, etc. However, we have heard passionate, compelling reasons directly from many of our students why they SHOULD be allowed to drive, and we have decided that we WILL allow driving and parking for any student with a full SC drivers license. *Permits are not allowed.* A link to our policy and the requirements will be posted to our website soon. *Good job, Bengals, convincing us that you can handle this privilege and stay safe!*
- **Busing capacity** - At this time, we are informed that buses will be running at 67% capacity with increased routes.

## Student Fees-Revtrak

In order to issue Chromebooks and other materials, we have set up a one stop shop for all fees related to courses or extracurricular activities. Revtrak should be live this week and the link can be found on our website. Once fees are paid, you will be eligible to receive student schedules and materials. Some items like *Yearbook* are optional, but cost will likely increase later in the year, so consider purchasing these now.

- At the high school level, we do not have traditional supply lists. Students will need to have whatever they prefer to stay organized and teachers will make recommendations when they meet with students in the first weeks.

## School Calendar

- Please make note of the newly approved academic calendar for 2020-2021:  
<https://www.ccsdschools.com/academiccalendar>

## Important School Contacts

- Records/registration: Data Clerk- Joy\_Nicely@charleston.k12.sc.us
- Director of School Counseling: [Claire\\_Gatlin@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:Claire_Gatlin@charleston.k12.sc.us) (Alpha E-G)
- School Counselor: [Bridget\\_Price@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:Bridget_Price@charleston.k12.sc.us) (Alpha A-D)
- School Counselor: [Parker\\_Ferrigan@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:Parker_Ferrigan@charleston.k12.sc.us) (Alpha H-M)
- School Counselor: [Elizabeth\\_Boeschen@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:Elizabeth_Boeschen@charleston.k12.sc.us) (Alpha N-Z)
- School Nurse: onna\_kuisel@charleston.k12.sc.us (Name is Lisa Kuisel).
- Administrative Secretary: Mary\_Starr@charleston.k12.sc.us
- Assistant Principals:
  - Daniel\_Cieslikowski@charleston.k12.sc.us (Alpha A-G)
  - [Stephanie\\_Flock@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:Stephanie_Flock@charleston.k12.sc.us) (Alpha H-Z)
- Principal: Anna\_Dassing@charleston.k12.sc.us

Thank you again as always for your patience and support as we work to open Lucy Beckham High School. Be on the lookout for more information to be shared soon! Please stay safe and continue to take care of yourselves and each other.

Sincerely,

*Anna E. Dassing*

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