

SLCSE Bryant Strategies for Fall 2020

School-Specific Updates

Dear families and friends,

We wanted to let you know about all the hard work and planning that has been happening this summer at SLCSE Bryant. Our primary goals are student and family safety and a quality education. The plans we have put in place were designed to be flexible and easily updated based on the current health situation.

As the School District has already stated, plans to return to school are greatly impacted by what color Salt Lake City is experiencing. In red and orange phases, learning will be all online. In a yellow phase, there will be a hybrid (online and in-person) model. School will resume as a 'new normal' when we have a green designation. We will inform you as soon as possible if these plans change.

Team Teaching

At SLCSE Bryant, we believe that knowing our students well is one of the best ways to provide for a range of academic needs. Additionally, the current health climate makes reduced social contact crucial. In response, we have devised a team-teaching plan that will do both. Your student will be placed on one of four academic teams. That team is composed of one Math, Science, Language Arts and Social Studies teacher (reading, Special Ed and elective teachers, may serve more than one team). Those core teachers are responsible for the same group of 120 students throughout the year.

The benefits of this strategy are:

- Students are known well by their teachers and teachers can easily communicate to one another about specific student needs.
- With a group of teachers all serving the same students, it will be easier to plan complimentary lessons and activities across classes. This means more targeted learning and common expectations and academic language.
- The familiarity with individual students would make transitioning to an all-online learning situation much easier if it is necessary.
- Teams of students could easily be isolated from other teams, reducing everyone's daily social contacts.

We feel that team teaching is a wonderful strategy that serves students well in all circumstances. This set-up will be in place during the 2020-21 school year regardless of the health situation.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Please keep in mind that we are trying to remain as flexible as possible without compromising safety or learning. Therefore, **answers to these questions may change**. We will do our best to keep you informed of changes as they happen.

Also, the majority of these questions/answers apply to in-person learning, which is not guaranteed. Decisions about whether students will learn completely online (**Red** or **Orange** Phase), completely in-person (**Green** Phase), or a hybrid model (**Yellow** Phase) will come from SLC School District.

Q Will my student be in school everyday?

A Currently, we are not planning to have all students in class everyday. Half of our students would attend on 'A' days (Monday and Thursday), and the other half on 'B' days (Tuesday and Friday). The days students are not in the school building, they will have online learning requirements designed by their team of teachers.

Q Which days will my student come to school? Do I have a choice? When will I know?

A Assignment of students to either A or B days will happen in August. Students with siblings attending elementary schools (which may require child-care coordination, etc.) will be given priority scheduling.

Q Will my student be required to wear a mask? Are they provided by the school?

A YES. Current mandates from the Governor's office require face masks. Therefore, all people in our school building would be required to wear a face mask. We ask students to bring their own masks (ones that they know fit comfortably). We will have a limited number of disposable masks when needed.

A We would direct families in need of masks to the Utah State Coronavirus website (<https://coronavirus.utah.gov/mask/>) where you can get at least one free mask for every family member. This may take a few weeks to process, so we would recommend requesting your mask early. Making your own masks is also an option. This tutorial shows you how to do it without a sewing machine (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QGki-MyWBTg>)

Frequently Asked Questions (cont.)

Q What will my student's learning experience look like?

A We are aware that last spring, student learning changed quickly and drastically as everyone tried to figure how to make learning happen in an online environment. Our staff is spending countless hours improving our knowledge of the best-practices for online learning, Canvas and other digital tools and how to build a successful academic community online. Therefore, as school starts in the fall, we are confident that we will be able to provide high-quality instruction both in-person and online. **We will expect students to be working and learning every day, regardless of whether they are in the school building.**

Q Have the hours of the school day changed?

A Shortening the school day has been discussed as a way of dealing with health concerns. The current planned start time for SLCSE Bryant is 8:15 am ending at 1:45. However, this topic is still being actively discussed and we will keep you informed of changes.

Q Besides smaller class sizes and masks, what else will be different about the school day.

A We have considered many strategies for keeping students safe during all parts of the day. Some changes may include:

- Having lunch in a classroom instead of a dining area
- Providing students with water bottles
- Implementing a one-direction flow of traffic in the halls
- Staggered passing times
- **Not assigning student lockers** (this will minimize gatherings and the number of surfaces that students will come into contact with)
- Because of a change in lockers, students will be allowed to bring backpacks to all classes

Q How many people will my student be in contact with during the day?

A Our team teaching plan could allow for as few as 15 students to travel together during the day to all classes. As the health situations improve, student schedules could be changed to allow for more mixing.

Frequently Asked Questions (cont.)

Q What academic and help is available to students?

We understand that helping students learn from home can be overwhelming. Therefore, Bryant teachers are working on a schedule of:

- Online office hours
- Tutoring sessions with teachers and paraprofessionals
- Peer-help groups

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These schedules will be in place by the time classes begin. We are also compiling digital resources, resources for parents to help them navigate at-home learning with their student and planning online social opportunities for students.

Q What technology help is available to students?

We are working hard to ensure that all students will have access to a digital device. Students will also be able to use their own computers and tablets (not phones).

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Furthermore, Salt Lake City School District has structures in place to help families with technology access and maintenance and can connect families to community resources that provide internet access. We will have additional resources at SLCSE Bryant. For example, students can bring devices to school and digital issues can be addressed while they are in class.

Q What changes have been made in transportation/buses?

All bus routes are still scheduled to run in the 2020-21 school year. However, current guidelines allow for one student per seat (26 students/bus). Assignment to either A day or B day will result in approximately half of the students on any given bus route to be in school on any given day. Masks will be required while students are on the bus and the transportation department will clean and sanitize buses daily.

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Q What happens if I decide to keep my student at home everyday even if in-person classes are available?

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Please contact us if this is your preference. 801-578-8118, Claudia.Sanchez@slcschools.org, or Wendy.Walker@slcschools.org

Frequently Asked Questions (cont.)

Q Will sports continue at SLCSE Bryant? AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS?

Organized sports will not be conducted unless the state/county has moved into the green phase.

A We understand the value of after-school programming. We are working on solutions to getting students the extra help and community-building that after-school programming provides, but there is currently no scheduled after-school programs.

Q What sanitation measures will be taken in the school building?

A As per the district's statements, custodians will sanitize frequent touch points and restrooms throughout the day. Plexiglass barriers are being installed in front offices, libraries and other areas. Staff and students will have access to hand sanitizer and sanitizing solution. The building has also been deep cleaned over the summer break and will continue to be throughout the year. Finally, Wednesdays will provide an opportunity for many school spaces to be cleaned and sanitized.

Q Who can I contact with further questions or for information?

If you have additional questions or comment, you can add them to our **Google Survey**: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=iFI4W1nRVkKZxmR0oGlV49wHzj28zxPuVp1pewVdmFUMTRKMIhPRVBKvUwSkxFUjRNSVc0Vk5OUS4u>

A We will make announcements via email (more answers to FAQs to come) and through our **Facebook** page: <https://www.facebook.com/Salt-Lake-Center-for-Science-Education-166247913411452>

Announcements and other resources can be found at our school website: <http://slcse.weebly.com/>