



Dear BSM Families,

Over the past two months, preparations for the 2020-21 school year have taken on new meaning as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our world. As you know, recommendations and guidelines to mitigate risk at the personal and organizational level change significantly and regularly, which of course impacts schools. In this dynamic environment, we remain focused on our mission and on delivering an exceptional holistic, faith based education for our students *on the BSM campus beginning in August.*

Our comprehensive plan for the 2020-21 school year is built upon recommendations from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), and Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). We also are in consultation with medical advisors as plans and protocols evolve. Recommendations regarding grouping, health screening, social distancing, masks, shields, personal hygiene, and facility disinfecting have been a part of BSM's mitigation strategies. We have been fortunate to put those practices into action this summer.

June has brought positive changes to our campus. Staff members were welcomed back to the workplace with mitigation protocols in place. Outdoor student athletic training and camps began in accordance with Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) requirements. Frankly, it has been wonderful seeing our students and staff back on campus training and learning! July also will bring a greater level of activity to BSM with indoor athletic camps, summer coursework, and Class of 2020 graduation.

Two design teams have been working diligently to create educational models for the upcoming school year. The Educational Design Team is focused on the structures and operations, and the Virtual Learning Team is engaged in the execution of high quality virtual learning. There are three educational design models in development. One assumes all students, faculty, and staff will be on campus daily; another assumes a 50 percent occupancy rate; and the third is a fully virtual learning environment. The Minnesota Department of Education along with the Minnesota Department of Health issued [detailed guidance to schools](#) (which aligns with BSM's planning) in late June. They expect to make further recommendations at the end of July based on the trajectory of the pandemic.

Embedded in those plans are educational options for our students that may be considered high-risk based on specific health conditions.

The Minnesota State High School League, the governing body for high school athletics and activities, has been focused on creating a gradual approach toward full participation which will be implemented throughout the summer months. Specific determinations will follow in August as official athletic start dates approach.

In the weeks ahead, families will receive information about new student and parent orientation along with fall athletics and activities for the 2020-21 school year. In addition, we will provide another education update in July. Of course in the interim, please reach out if you have any questions.

While these times bring significant uncertainty, rest assured knowing BSM is fully committed to bringing a safe and rigorous education to our students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

Adam Ehrmantraut, Ed.D.

BSM President