

## **Brownstown Central Community School Corporation**

BCCSC COVID HOTLINE (812) 358-6222

Dear Parents and Guardians of Brownstown Central Community School Corporation,

Welcome back to an unprecedented school year. There is nothing more important to Brownstown Central Community School Corporation than the safety and health of our students, our staff, and their families. At BCCSC, we are and will continue to follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The American Academy of Pediatrics, Indiana State Department of Health, and the Jackson County Health Department. We will continue to do everything in our power to ensure the safest environment possible while providing continuity of education to our students.

Since this school year has a more health-driven focus, I would like to reintroduce myself to you. As the Nursing Supervisor/School Nurse for the Brownstown Central Community School Corporation, I am eager to continue to provide excellent nursing services to all of the students within our school corporation. I am very excited about partnering with you. I have been a Registered Nurse for 32 years and I have been practicing in the field of school nursing for the past 14 years. Prior to transitioning to school nursing, my past nursing experience includes a wide range of nursing experience. In the Chicagoland area, as a nursing student on a Medical Surgical Floor at Hinsdale Hospital, then as a Registered Nurse in the Cardiac Critical Care at Loyola University; Lafayette Indiana, St. Elizabeth/Arnett Health Systems in the Intensive Care Unit, Columbus Regional Hospital in the Cardiovascular Critical Care Unit, and Schneck Medical Center in the Intensive Care Unit. I functioned as a Charge Nurse, a Preceptor to new staff, and a Member of the Critical Response Teams and Code Teams, and a Patient-Family Liaison and a Staff Educator. I have also functioned as an Educator in a long term care facility certifying staff as Certified Nursing Assistants and Qualified Medication Aides. I was PRN in the ICU setting until approximately 5 years ago. In addition to my nursing license, I am also licensed by the Indiana Department of Education School Services as a School Nurse. I am also Nationally Certified in School Nursing by the National Board for Certification of School Nurses. I currently serve on the Board of Directors for the Jackson County Health Department.

My expectation for myself is to provide your child with excellent nursing care. I follow evidence-based guidelines and put the safety of your child, the other students, and staff as my main priority. I believe it is best to communicate transparently with you so you can make well-informed decisions for your family. I want to assure you that as a mother of three children and a grandmother of two, I make decisions for your children as if they were my own family members. I have an excellent nursing staff that also practices in this same manner. My staff consists of: Melissa Ludeman LPN, and Shannon McKeand Health Aide. We will be adding a part-time RN in the near future that will also practice at these high standards.

**Expectations/Communication from me involving COVID will be as follows:** You will be notified if your child is impacted by another student or staff member that is positive for COVID-19 and your child is deemed a close contact. You will not be directly notified if there is a case in your child's school building, in your child's classroom, or bus, or any other school-related activity if your child is not considered a direct contact. In no way is this an attempt to keep any information from you, instead, please be reassured that your child did not meet the criteria of a high-risk exposure. Please be reassured that we are working diligently and applying all the above-mentioned organizations guidance, as well as the Indiana Department of Education guidance specifically to our school buildings as best as we can. We all share the same goals of keeping the school environment as risk-free as possible during this tenuous time. If your child has even one symptom of COVID-19, your child will be isolated in a designated COVID Isolation Area until you are able to pick them up from school. Any child sent home with COVID-19 symptoms will also have an accompanying letter explaining further instructions. If you have additional questions for the school, please feel free to reach out to us directly by calling the COVID line for BCCSC that is at the top of this letter. Remember, we are all in this together and guidance now may be totally different a month from now so do not assume you know the current guidelines.

**My expectation of you (parent/guardian) involving COVID will be as follows:** It is critical in order to maintain a healthy school environment that you as a parent symptom monitor with your child on a daily basis. Please establish some type of plan to build this into your already hectic morning routine. We are following current recommendations from the CDC and the ISDH that recommend self-monitoring for symptoms instead of mass screenings at school. Please keep ill children home. Do not send a child to school for the nurse to assess. The healthy school environment depends upon you to assess your child and if there is any question or doubt in your mind, please keep your child home with you to provide observation and symptom monitoring, and contact your child's primary medical provider. Please keep all asymptomatic children home if you are waiting on a COVID test result or do not send children who have been deemed a close contact to school. When you are awaiting a result or if you are a close contact of a case, you are supposed to remain in your home. Please communicate with the school via the COVID HOTLINE if your child has a Positive COVID-19 Test, If your child is placed in Quarantine from being a close contact outside of school, or if you have any COVID questions or concerns that cannot be answered on our corporation website.

MY hope and prayer is every parent, student, and staff member views this year as a partnership and we can be gracious and forgiving to each other as we navigate through this pandemic that is much larger than all of us!

Stay Well,

Joyce