



At Emereau, we illuminate to embark; we investigate to discover; we innovate to transform; we cultivate to sustain; we celebrate to thrive - realizing the potential within us - we graduate.  $E=i^3c^2g!$

**Illuminate Investigate Innovate Cultivate Celebrate Graduate**

## **Safe Return Plan 2021- 2022**

July 1, 2021

Revised August 10, 2021

Revised March 22, 2023

Emereau: Bladen Charter School is committed to the vision that students will investigate and be innovative within a safe learning environment that develops their academic, social and emotional growth, and well-being to promote success for today and be prepared for tomorrow. The foundation of both our vision and mission rests upon the safety and wellbeing of our students, staff, and families. The Safe Return Plan will continue to be reviewed and adjustments will be made as needed. The Safe Return Plan is subject to change based upon updates and recommendations from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services guidelines. All students will return for in person learning on Monday, August 2nd.

### **Safe Return Goals:**

- Follow the NCDPI and NCDHHS guidelines to keep our students and staff safe.
- Follow guidelines as set forth in [StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit](https://strongschoolsnc.org/public-health-toolkit) (K-12): <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/media/164/open>; added: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-childcare-guidance.html>
- Assess academic gaps and provide growth opportunities for all students. (continuing- offering professional development as needed)
- Evaluate the social and emotional needs of our students and staff. (continuing- offering professional development as needed)
- Keep school open all year without having to endure school closure.
  - No school closures school year 2022- 2023

### **Athletics and Activities**

1. Emereau: Bladen will continue athletic activities for the 2021 - 2022 school year. Each program will sustain a safe and healthy environment. (continuing 2022- 2023)
2. Emereau: Bladen will follow Executive Orders issued by the state of North Carolina at all events.
3. Coaches and/ or the Athletic Director will communicate with families via approved communication platforms.
4. Extracurricular activities and sports are subject to the same mitigation protocols as our physical school buildings. Therefore, if a student cannot attend school in person because of family concerns for transmission or exposure of COVID- 19, they cannot participate in these activities for the same reason.
5. Community transmission rates will be considered to determine which activities are appropriate.

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6. Spectator, nonessential visitors, and nonessential activities may be limited or prohibited.
7. Masks are to be worn following guidelines in the StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit.
  - a. added: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-childcare-guidance.html>
8. Guidelines from the NC Healthy Schools Athletics Page and the Middle/ Junior High Athletic Manual will be followed.
9. Physical distancing will be encouraged during times players are not actively participating.
  - a. **It is no longer recommended that schools implement physically distancing strategies (such as keeping students 3ft or 6ft apart)**

## Attendance

1. Attendance will be taken daily in accordance with the NC Department of Public Instruction attendance guidelines.
2. The counselor will work closely with teachers and families to monitor attendance.
3. Students that are absent due to exposure or isolation will have the opportunity to make up missed assignments. If assignments are made up, the absences can be coded as "1R= present/ off campus".
  - a. **Attendance laws followed for absences regarding illness. 1R is no longer used since there are no requirements for exposure or isolation, with the exception of excused illness absences.**

## Assessments

All students will be required to participate in all assessments on campus.

## Communication

1. Emereau: Bladen provides communication to stakeholders through weekly alert phone calls and emails- SwiftReach SwiftK-12.
2. Teachers will use "Class Dojo" or "Remind" as needed to communicate with families.
3. Parents and Guardians should make sure their information is current and that the school is notified if there are any changes.

## Flexibility

Administrators, school personnel, the Board of Directors, and health officials will continue to meet, plan, and discuss future changes to the current plan as conditions dictate. The plan will be reviewed as needed and revised as necessary.

## Health and Safety

1. **Masks-** July 1: Masks for students, faculty and staff will be optional to wear on campus. Students will be required to wear a mask while riding school buses. **August10:** Students, faculty, and staff will be required to wear a mask on campus, regardless of vaccination status. All outside visitors will be required to wear a mask upon entry into the school building. **Masks are no longer required to be worn unless a student is returning from a COVID positive test. Students wear masks for 5 days following a COVID positive test.**

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2. **Sanitizing Protocols-** Daily cleaning and maintaining of facilities will continue at Emereau: Bladen. Hand sanitizer is available throughout the campus.
3. **Screenings-** Health screenings and temperature screenings will be performed as necessary.
4. **Social distancing-** When possible, students and staff will maintain the recommended distance.
5. **Visitors-** To protect the safety of our students and staff, Emereau: Bladen will still limit visitors to the school building.
6. **Exposure/Infection-** Parent/ guardian (or employee) must notify the Executive Director, school nurse, or child's teacher immediately upon receiving positive test results. Emereau: Bladen will continue to follow the isolation and quarantine protocols as set forth by the StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-childcare-guidance.html>
7. Administration and the Board of Directors may transition the school, class(es), or grade(s) between learning modes according to the NC Department of Public Instruction guidelines.

## **Technology**

1. Emereau: Bladen used the CANVAS platform for its Learning Management System for the 2020- 2021 school year. The school will continue using this platform for any need of remote learning in the 2021- 2022 school year **and subsequent years**.
2. Both the parent/ guardian and the student are responsible for properly using and caring for technology and equipment used at Emereau: Bladen. School- issued technology and equipment are to be used following policies set forth in the Emereau: Bladen Charter School Family Guide. All students and a parent/ guardian will sign the technology use agreement.

## **Transportation**

1. Students who ride the bus are required to wear masks at all times while in route to or from school. **No longer a requirement**
2. Parents are encouraged to check their child's temperature and do health screening before leaving home for school **as needed**.
3. Students will be given assigned seats. Family groups will be kept together.
4. Buses will be sanitized according to safety guidelines per StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit.

All plans are subject to change based on regulations by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), the Office of the Governor, and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI). Parents will be notified if changes are necessary.

**\*\*Revisions in highlight. 2022- 2023 revisions are red.**