What School in SAU 67 might look like in Fall 2020:
Reducing Risk Factors in Status Green
July 17 Version

This is not an operationalized plan, but rather a vision of what school may look like if operations are in status Green. These are steps we can take to reduce risk factors of virus transmission and still open schools as widely and as safely as possible. This is a draft plan.

We need to think about not only procedures, policies and physical factors, but also cultural change and how we educate our community to adapt and change our ways of doing things while we deal with the pandemic. Some of these proposals may seem drastic, but the alternative is to go to remote instruction completely as we did last Spring. Some of the proposals may seem like they are not enough, and this is where refinement and discussion comes in. I am putting this vision out so that we can harness the creative capacity of our larger school community. We do need to have a problem solving mentality and look to reduce risk as much as possible, while still providing education, services and schooling. We will need the cooperation and support of the whole community to make this happen. Therefore, we need to listen to concerns and try to adapt and accommodate individual needs as much as possible.

Here are some thoughts so far:

Status Green Operations:

Parents are encouraged to drive or carpool students. Bus students are masked and socially distanced as much as possible. We will have reduced bus ridership and more cars on our campuses. We may have to look at traffic patterns and staggered arrival and dismissal times. Additional transportation protocols are being developed.

All buses, schools and classrooms will have maximum airflow including possibly open windows and doors, the goal is to increase air handling and utilize outdoor environments as much as possible. This will have to be balanced with our school security and safety plans. We will need our local emergency officials to help us establish a balance between the competing goals.

Parents will fill out a ParentSquare screening form daily on all students (BHS students can do it on themselves). This includes taking and recording a temperature and answering symptoms and possibly travel questions. This form is in development by ParentSquare, but has some nice dashboard and reporting features that will allow us to manage screening quickly. Nurses and Administrators will need to be able to monitor this, and follow up on issues. On site temperature checks may be implemented as needed.

All people exhibiting any COVID symptoms will need to stay home and participate remotely as much as possible. This will be part of an educational campaign and also communicated on the screening forms.
Students come into school buildings possibly using staggered times or in various entrances. This will have to be balanced with other security and supervision needs at each building. They will go directly to their cohorted classrooms. Congregation of students will be limited as much as possible. Administration and or nurses will run reports on screenings and absences and address issues. Any reports of COVID exposure or symptoms will be immediately addressed. Students may be rescreened at school with temperature checks.

Our nurses will develop procedures for dealing with sick or suspected COVID cases at our schools. Any people exhibiting COVID like symptoms will be masked and isolated at school (we will need to set up special areas) and sent home as soon as possible. Guidelines will be enforced about return to school or work (certain number of hours symptom free without medicine).

All people (except those with medical reasons) will be required to wear a mask at all times. We will also investigate the use of other PPE such as face shields or desk shields. People will be encouraged to bring masks from home and guidelines on type, care and cleaning will be developed. Supplies of masks will be made available to those who do not have them.

Education and possible disciplinary action will be needed to enforce mask use. We do need to develop a culture of mask use, sanitization and distancing, but if people are willfully refusing to abide by guidelines, then they will be moved to remote instruction. We will investigate having breaks built into the schedule so that people can distance (preferably outside) to take breaks from mask use if needed.

Classrooms will be set up for a goal of six feet of distance and a minimum of three feet (possibly with increased PPE like desk shields). All seating will be in grids facing in one direction. The seating chart is permanent and on file with the administration and nurses to aid in contact tracing. All non-essential and non-educational furnishings will be removed from rooms to better enable sanitization. We may be able to set up rooms with plastic barriers around workstations to aid in room setup.

Changing of classes will be minimized. As much as possible, students will be cohorted. Any travel in the building will be staggered and possibly one directional. Avoidance of congregating will be a priority. Use of restrooms will be number restricted, and we will need to stagger restroom use as much as possible. Sanitation stations with alcohol sanitizer will be placed around the schools, and people encouraged to use them frequently.

Instruction will be based on a unified platform and the same schedule and platform will be used for both remote and in person environments. There may be hybrid classes where students and or staff are remote and in person at the same time. There may be classes that are taught remotely even to students who are in person.
All large group assemblies will be done virtually. All meetings will be done virtually, or with a hybrid model keeping the participants in the room to a minimum (non school people should participate remotely.) Large classes may be broken down to smaller subgroups. Lunches may be cohorted or spread out to various places.

Visitors, volunteers and guests will be severely limited and must wear masks and practice social distancing when coming to the school. Places of school business may have plastic barriers or teller like windows used to interact with the public. Coming into the buildings to do business will be restricted.

We have not developed specific guidelines yet for sports and activities, but we will try to have them run as much as possible within guidelines similar to classrooms, or according to sport specific guidance. Sports and activities may be limited in number, place and activity. Inter school play may be restricted, or not allowed. At a minimum social distancing, mask use and sanitization protocols will be in place.

There will be education campaigns on mask use, hand sanitizing, social distancing and general hygiene. Cleaning protocols will be increased and some cleaning or sanitizing may be done by staff in between classes. Training and protocols will need to be developed for this.

People exposed to the virus (contact or travel) or with positive test results will be reported to the administration and nurses (taking into account privacy requirements). Public health resources will be used in contact tracing. Quarantining for 14 days will be required for those exposed to the virus (a specific definition of exposed to the virus will be adopted). All quarantined people will be expected to participate in remote instruction.

Sick people may participate in remote instruction to the extent possible or may have to be absent. Substitute management will be aided by new software. Absence tracking will need to account for remote participation verses being fully absent.

Confirmed cases of COVID will be communicated to the community along with any need for quarantining of groups. This will have to be balanced by privacy concerns, but the goal will be transparency in communication.

At times there may be variable amounts of students and staff participating in remote or in person instruction. When the number of remote instruction students and teachers reaches a tipping point, level status may switch to Yellow, Orange or Red.

More time than usual at the start of school will be dedicated to teacher planning and getting students ready to learn both socially and environmentally. The state will allow three staff work days to count for the student calendar.
Parents and guardians will need to help develop a culture of mask use and sanitization, and may have to reinforce this at home and pre-teach it prior to school starting.

Many of these ideas have policy and budgetary concerns that will need to be addressed. We have already established a budget for this year and we may have to curtail spending in some areas to be able to implement some of these ideas.

We need to establish the number of students who will not come to school until a blue level is declared, and then this plan can be further operationalized.