



455 Riverview Drive | Benton Harbor, MI 49022 | 269.925.3807

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Dear Bobcat Family,

Every parent, teacher, and student in the U.S. wishes the COVID-19 pandemic would just be over so life can go back to something that feels normal, including school. But it's likely the novel coronavirus will be with us for some time and continue to disrupt our lives (especially people of color who are at increased risk of getting sick and dying from COVID-19) at least until effective treatments become widely available. As we begin to look ahead to the upcoming school year, it's likely that health and safety concerns related to COVID-19 will continue to impact what education looks like.

With those concerns in mind, and over 70% of our Bobcat families choosing our online platform, on Thursday August 6, 2020 our leadership team and school board reviewed our back to school preparedness plans. After much consideration, debate, and conversation, the school board and leadership team has decided to ***return to school through 100% online learning.***

Though this fall may look a little different, our commitment to your child remains the same. At Benton Harbor Charter School Academy, we believe every single student is important and every single student can thrive. Our entire staff is committed to putting students first.

The first quarter, starting Monday, August 31, will be completely online using Google Classroom as our virtual platform. Every course is taught by a fully certified educator who provides as much support as each student needs to succeed. ***As of right now, we plan to offer only online learning for the first quarter, which ends November 6, 2020.*** In the weeks leading up to that, we will assess our learning options and consider returning to in-school learning for the second quarter.

Soon, you can learn more about what we offer and how it works by exploring our [Return to School COVID-19 Updates webpage on our website](#). You can also contact us directly with any questions you may have. We encourage you to familiarize yourself with our virtual learning program so we can come together to safely serve our school community!

Thank you for entrusting your student to us. We are lucky to partner with you. Let's have a great school year!

You will be hearing from us early next week about the next steps regarding virtual learning, training, orientation, computers, internet, and food service.

Tim Harris
Principal