

BKS' Monthly Newsletter Lesson Plans



August 2020

Dear friends,

While there is still so much uncertainty in our day-to-day, we at BKS are tremendously grateful for the opportunity to help our kids continue to learn as we move to reopen our education centers. Covid-19 has had a dramatic and direct impact on the children and families we serve. Over the last 5 months our students have had family members laid off, or unable to work due to lack of childcare, and some of our students have lost close relatives to Covid-19.

BKS continues to keep our kids learning throughout the spring and summer by adapting our curriculum to distance learning; providing remote learning materials for families; engaging parents in remote learning; and, importantly, by helping address food insecurity that was most acute in about 15% of our students' families.

- **Since April we have provided 4,670 meals to date to our students and their families.**
- **We provided more than \$19,000 in supplies to our students to help keep them learning.**

Thank you for your support of BKS and our efforts to respond to the challenges that Covid-19 has presented to our students, their families, and our staff. We know that things will continue to shift and change, and your on-going support of BKS is critical to our ability to meet this unprecedented challenge.

We have shifted our attention towards efforts to reopen our 7 educational centers safely. We are in the process of reopening this month, with children returning to our centers on August 12. For more information about reopening, please see below.

Regards,

Amerika Williamson
Chairperson, BKS Board of Directors

Reopening Our Centers

Our paramount concern is the health and safety of our students, their families, and our staff and families. Educating our students will continue to be challenging as we move forward in the Covid Era.

BKS is reopening our centers to children starting on August 12 in order to close out the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year which will end on Sept. 3rd. We are offering each family one of the following learning model options to choose from:

- In person all 5 days
- Hybrid learning (3 days in-person and 2 days of remote learning)
- Remote learning only (2 days a week of instruction only)

These models allow for each family to choose the option that best fits with their needs for safety and learning. These multiple learning models however present a tremendous challenge for BKS and our teaching staff. Resources for distance learning technology and training is going to continue to be needed. Additionally we anticipate a host of other new expenses, including; expanded staffing hours for curriculum development for the learning models, more professional development, supplemental nutritional support, materials for in person and distance learning, access to technology for students, and shifting needs for PPE.

Staff Safety:

Our staff have returned to work following specialized deep cleanings of our seven education centers. Our center staff and educators are going through extensive training on health and safety protocols around hand washing, hygiene, social distancing, PPE usage and requirements, as well as new procedures to monitor children and staff for illness and infection. We are doing everything in our power to provide a safe and healthy space for our students to learn.

Next School Year:

The new school year begins on September 9th. We do not yet know how the Department of Education will modify plans for the coming school year. BKS will use our experience over the next few weeks to inform our own strategy, but ultimately we are dependent on City and State guidelines and policies. New York State has set a threshold by which students can return to in person learning; if the Covid infection rate is 3% or lower, students can meet in person. If the infection rate climbs above 9%, our centers will close and we will go back to a solely distance learning model.

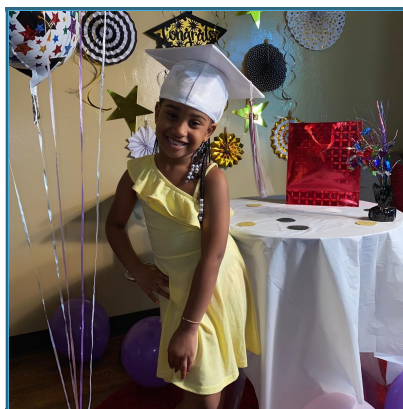
We need your support:

We will continue to update you on our re-opening. Your support of BKS has been critical to our ability to respond to Covid-19, thank you.

**Help our kids to keep learning! Support
BKS' response to Covid-19**

Our Steppers!

of our Centers. Please join us in congratulating our 2020 Steppers! Here are just a few of them.



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