



Ignite will be closed from Saturday, December 19th- Sunday, January 3rd. We will re-open on Monday, January 4th. We wish everyone a safe, and happy holiday season!

The graphic has a red background with yellow confetti scattered at the top. The text 'HAPPY HOLIDAYS!' is written in a large, yellow, sans-serif font. Below this, in white text, it says: 'On Wednesday December 16th our schools will be providing 21-day meal bags for virtual students, remote students, and non-enrolled children in Boone County to enjoy over winter break.' Further down, also in white text, it says: 'To order: Starting Dec 10th, fill out the survey on the Boone County website or call the school cafeteria of your choice.' At the bottom, it says: 'To pick up: Visit your school Wednesday from 10am-2pm'. The bottom of the graphic features four stylized Christmas trees in shades of green and yellow, each with a white star on top and white stars on its branches.

From the Counselors

Ignite Scholars,

We hope this email finds you well. We miss you all very much and we are looking forward to seeing you in January. During these NTI days we want to make sure you know we are still available to you. There are several ways you can meet with your counselors.

1. **Counselor Corner** *Virtual meetings- Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9-10am* on Microsoft Teams. The focus of these *open group* sessions are academics, careers, and college counseling. This group is flexible, meaning you can stop in at any time during the hour and get the assistance you need. Please keep in mind these are open groups, this is not the forum to discuss personal matters. If you have a specific issue that you would like to discuss individually, you can reach out to your counselors and schedule an individual session (see below).

Click on this link to log on to your virtual meeting in the Counselor Corner-

<https://bit.ly/2Wfle0B>

2. **Calendly** Your counselors are available to meet with you individually Monday-Friday, 8:00-3:30pm. You can access our calendars and schedule an appointment that fits your schedule.
 - a. Ms. Bardo- <https://calendly.com/amanda-bardo>
 - b. Ms. Light- <https://calendly.com/michelle-light/15min>
3. **E-mail** We are always available by e-mail. Do you have questions about your schedule, classes for next year, or need help with academics? Feel free to reach out to us anytime.
 - a. Ms. Bardo- Amanda.Bardo@boone.kyschools.us
 - b. Ms. Light- Michelle.Light@boone.kyschools.us
4. **Teams** We are also on Teams. Feel free to schedule a Calendly meeting or email one of us and we will set up a meeting with you.

We care about you. We want you to be successful. Whatever your question, comment, or concern we will work with you. We hope you enjoy these next few weeks of school.

Your Counselors,

Amanda Bardo & Michelle Light

Returning Scholars

Current Ignite scholars who plan to return to Ignite next year need to fill out a brief survey to let us know they are coming back.

Have your scholar contact one of their teachers if they haven't filled it out yet to secure their spot for next year!



Applications for 2021-2022

Our Application for the 2021-2022 school year for new scholars is on our website, www.igniteinstitute.org, or you can access it by clicking on this link: https://igniteinstitute.smapply.io/prog/ignite_app2020

Important dates:

- * **December 13th- Application closes at midnight (new extended deadline!)**
- * January 4th- Letters will be mailed with decisions
- * January 15th- Deadline for accepted scholars to declare their intention to attend for the 2021- 2022 school year.

This year's application no longer follows a "first come, first served" format. Our application committee developed a points-based application system to determine acceptance. Additionally, we have added a recommendation piece where scholars can choose their favorite teacher, coach, or mentor to answer 10 multiple choice questions on their behalf.

Ignite's application will continue to focus on scholars who are interested in career exploration within one of our career focused programs. In addition, Ignite's application is geared towards scholars who are looking for a different educational experience. While grades are important, our only academic requirement is that applicants are on target for a grade level appropriate high school English and Math course.

Current scholars do not have to complete this application, but feel free to pass this information along to anyone that might be interested.

From the Superintendent

Dear Boone County Families,

As we enter the final two school weeks of 2020, I want to share a draft of what we are planning for our second semester of the school year. This framework for the winter and spring months is designed so that you may anticipate how we plan to move forward. Of course, any planning that we do may need to be adjusted for the situation at the time.

Unfortunately, it appears that we will have a long and challenging winter with COVID-19 as the case numbers in our community and region are extremely high. Several medical experts have expressed their concerns that COVID-19 numbers and the general healthcare situation across the country may only worsen during the winter months. Therefore, we must emphasize the support and improvement of virtual instruction and mental health activities across the district and also be prepared to transition to in-person instruction when the conditions are appropriate. Navigating through the 2nd semester, we will use our updated decision-making criteria for opening and closing, see below.

Boone County School District COVID-19 District & School Status Decision-Making Criteria

The Boone County School District is working very closely under the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Kentucky Department of Education and Northern Kentucky Health Department to develop on-going plans for the 2020-2021 school year. In addition to these government entities, we regularly collaborate and learn from regional healthcare providers to ensure that we balance the needs of our students, which include socioemotional health, school participation, and academic achievement.

As a district, we may have to close a portion of a school, a single school, or multiple schools; however, we will refrain from closing the entire school district if at all possible.

When making decisions about the status of our district and schools, we will consider multiple measures of the safety and health of our students and staff. These important decisions are made in the context of each individual school situation using the following information:

- Health & well-being of students and staff
- Academic and socioemotional performance and needs of students
- Incidence Rate (daily new cases per 100K population, 7-day rolling average)
- Trend line of daily new cases per 100K population
- Infection rate
- Quarantine data and its impact on schools
- Successful implementation of school health & safety protocols
- Directives from the NKY Health Department, KY Department of Education, and KY Governor

Here is the draft general framework and schedule for the 2nd half of the year:

1. **Return after Holiday Break (week of Jan. 4th)** – we will return from the holiday break providing virtual instruction for a period of two weeks, pending COVID-19 metrics in our schools and county. This buffer period is necessary to allow potential cases from holiday gatherings to be identified. This two-week window is a time where we need your help in returning to in-person instruction by the limiting of social gatherings and following the same safety protocols we use in our schools: wearing face masks, practicing social distancing, washing hands often, and cleaning common surfaces.
2. **Begin the return to In-Person instruction using the Hybrid model on Tuesday, January 19th** – after the MLK holiday we will return on Tuesday, pending COVID-19 metrics in our schools and county, using our A/B hybrid schedule to reduce student numbers in the schools after the buffer period. We will use our school & district decision making criteria to open or close during this time. This model would reduce student numbers and provide additional social distancing during the winter period.
3. **Transition to 4-days a week of In-Person Instruction the end of the 3rd quarter on Thursday, March 18th** – Pending COVID-19 metrics in our schools and county and our decision making criteria, this is our target date for the preferred instructional model. However, we may need to move this date as appropriate based on the current conditions.
4. **Return from Spring Break on April 19th using the Hybrid model for one week** – this would reduce student numbers and provide additional social distancing after a potential period of student and/or family travel during the break. After this week, the district would transition back to 4-days of instruction per week pending COVID-19 metrics in our schools and county and our decision-making criteria.
5. **Complete the 2020-2021 School Year** – we will celebrate the accomplishments of our students and staff at the end of the school year, hopefully in-person.

I cannot emphasize enough this is a rough draft of a general framework of the semester. The goal is to communicate a general plan of action to everyone with full knowledge that we will have to make adjustments based on the current situations but that we will limit transitions as much as possible as they are stressful, difficult, and challenging for everyone. As many schools are still working hard to get parents' decision-making completed for the 2nd semester, I ask that you contact your child's school if you wish to change their mode of instruction to in-person instruction or virtual instruction.

Take care of yourself, your family, and your community.

Sincerely,
Matthew L. Turner
Superintendent

Ignite Amnesty Days

Just a reminder, while our scholars are all learning virtually, We are implementing Ignite Amnesty Days December 7-18. During this time, we will be focusing on connecting with scholars in real time and reinforcing the curriculum that has been taught so far during the 2nd quarter.

Your scholar will be required to log in for synchronous learning Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. This is MANDATORY for ALL SCHOLARS. While scholars are logged in, they will turn in and/or re-do 3 assignments per class, per week, minimum. This equates to a minimum of 18 assignments each week and will have a huge impact on your scholars' learning and grades.

Please note that if your scholar does not log in to every course, every period, they will be counted absent for that class, unless released by a teacher. Keep in mind that these absences will add up and can create truancy issues.

Starting Monday, December 14, scholars who log into class, but do not participate, will receive a discipline referral for skipping class. This does not apply to scholars who have been officially released by their teacher.

Scholars and their parents/guardians who are counted truant will be contacted by Ignite administration.

The schedule for logging in to each period for synchronous learning on **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday** is:

1st Period 8:00-8:50
2nd Period 8:55-9:45
3rd Period 9:50-10:40
Lunch 10:45-11:35
4th Period 11:20-12:10
5th Period 12:15-1:05
6th Period 1:10-2:00

All Calls

You will receive an automated phone call if your scholar has been counted absent for 1 or more periods a day. If you believe the absence was recorded in error, have your scholar contact their teachers. Scholars who are finishing up college classes, or have been released by a teacher from logging into a specific class will not receive a phone call for that class.

Parent/Doctor notes

If your scholar will be out of class for any reason, please email a parent or doctor note to Heatherm.johnson@boone.kyschools.us.

Wednesdays

Scholars will be completing CERT testing and meeting with their mentors on Wednesdays. They will continue working on assignments this day on their own.

We sincerely hope this will help all of our scholars, particularly those that are struggling. These are difficult times and have proven to be challenging for even the most responsible scholars. We believe that all our scholars are capable of accomplishing great things, even during the most trying times and we have very high hopes for the next week.

From the First Aid Room

Quarantine Information from NKY Health Dept.

Parents/Guardians: Information for those of you whose students are being asked to quarantine. If you or your student have been identified as a close contact to a positive case of novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Please read the letter below in order to prevent the spread of the disease.



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Close Contact Letter - NKY Health

If you have questions, please contact Kentucky's COVID-19 Hotline at 1-800-722-5725 or visit www.nkyhealth.org or www.kycovid19.ky.gov



Immunization Reminder

If you have not already turned in an updated immunization certificate, please do so. Keep in mind that your student must have a second meningitis on or after their 16th birthday, and 2 Hep A's spaced 6 months apart. Check for a correct expiration date. Even if your student is virtual/remote, it is still a state requirement to have an updated certificate.

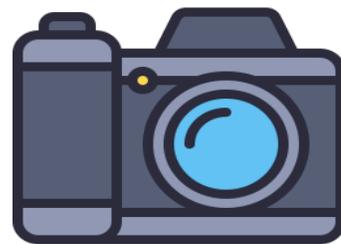
If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact the Nurse or Health Clerk at Ignite:

Nurse: Noelle Stoner (rebecca.stoner@boone.kyschools.us) 859-817-3570, ext 16115

Health Clerk: Carole Daily (carole.daily@boone.kyschools.us) 859-817-3570, ext 16103

Picture Day

SENIOR pictures have been rescheduled for Friday, February 12. Re-takes for underclassman have been reschedule for Thursday, January 28.
You may order pictures by logging into Lifetouch.com.



Ignite COVID-19 Dashboard

Ignite has it's very own COVID-19 dashboard, which is updated every Friday. Click on the link to see information on COVID cases at Ignite.

<https://datastudio.google.com/reporting/a25ec36e-8f41-4ba4-a257-fc1426245adb>

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