



BRIS Learning Guidance





International[®]
Schools
Partnership

Baton Rouge International School, as part of International Schools Partnership (ISP), is committed to maintaining the safety and wellbeing of students, staff, and families as our top priority, and continues to put learners and learning at the heart of everything we do.

Despite the temporary closure of our school buildings around the world due to COVID-19, learning and teaching continued through our distance learning approaches across ISP during the last few months of school. We understand, with you, that life is fluid and we are being called on to be more flexible than ever before. We also know how important it is to have a plan in place that guides us as well.

All BRIS reopening planning has been guided by the following [ISP Principles](#):

- **We begin with our children and students.** Our children and students are at the heart of everything we do. Simply, their success is our success
- **Treat everyone with care and respect.** We look after one another, embrace similarities and differences and promote the well-being of each other.

At Baton Rouge International School, we are fortunate that we can offer our learning community choice. **We believe that this is so important at this time, and we want you to know that we are committed to remaining flexible so that we can work with you to get your child back to school in the modality that works for you and keeps your family feeling safe and secure.**

On-Campus vs. Distance Learning

*For our families who have chosen to physically return to school and to **On-Campus Learning**, we would like to remind you that:*

- Our campus is large and spacious with good ventilation.
 - Our facilities team is **experienced** and **dedicated** to keeping our community healthy and safe.
 - Our teachers have rearranged learning spaces to ensure that social distancing protocols are met.
 - Our community is committed to working together to keep each other safe by abiding by the BRIS guidelines and expectations.
-

*For our families who have chosen to remain virtual for the time being, and will begin with **Distance Learning**, we would like you to know that:*

- **ISP has invested close to \$100k in technology** over the summer so that our learning community is better connected with stronger Wi-Fi and enhanced software on all teacher and student devices.
- BRIS students and faculty have transition to Microsoft Office 365 so that communication is streamlined and efficient.
- Teachers have trained in the Microsoft Education Platform to allow for safe streaming of online learning to students learning through the **BRIS Distance Learning Plan 2.0**.
- Student schedules have been revised so that there are more synchronous learning opportunities allowing for students to interact with their teachers and classmates from their home learning environment.

On-Campus Learning

On-Campus Learning: Students on-campus in a safe and purposefully designed learning environment that will minimize health risk for the community.

BRIS is fortunate to be able to offer On-Campus Learning for those families ready to send their children back to school. The current guidelines established by our local state government has enabled the school to plan and execute a safe onsite return.

With the social distancing restrictions we have introduced health and safety best practices and protocols that link to learning, such as refined scheduling to limit movement around the school, reduced before and after school programs and staggered pick-up and drop off times to control crowding of students and faculty.

Any onsite sporting and afterschool enrichment offerings that can take place during this restricted period will be delivered with continued physical distancing expectations and heightened hygiene protocols.

We may still experience closures throughout the year, mandated by government, and BRIS is prepared to offer Distance Learning programs to all students. In the event of Louisiana moving backwards in the current phases, BRIS will endeavor to keep its youngest students safely On-Campus Learning as much as possible within state and health guidelines.

Distance Learning

Distance Learning: An all online program with synchronous and asynchronous learning experiences for Pre-K -12th grade.

Drawing on best practice, survey feedback from parents and students and valuable experience from our global community of ISP educators, BRIS has created an updated and adapted **Distance Learning Plan 2.0** that will allow students more contact time with their teacher and classmates. Our goal is to provide as many synchronous learning opportunities as possible so that when families and their children are ready to come back on campus, they will already feel integrated into the class and will be at the same stage of learning.

At BRIS, we understand that Distance Learning is not only about technology; it is also about our people. We recognise that there are many elements involved in providing content, experiences and connection for children and students so that they can continue to learn as part of a community. **In short, it's about showing up for each other, and demonstrating our care of the whole child as well as the whole community.** This can be done in multiple ways; technology is an important, but not exclusive part of the mix.

Distance learning includes innovative opportunities for both online and offline learning, as appropriate for the ages, stages and needs of our students. **Communication, flexibility and collaboration** between school and home is essential for this learning modality to work.

Synchronous vs. Asynchronous Learning

The BRIS Distance Learning program is an online program for students Pre-K through 12th grade who choose not to return to On-Campus Learning at this time.

The BRIS Distance Learning model allows students to complete their course of study with a combination of **synchronous** and **asynchronous** instruction, with support being provided by core content and specialized subject teachers at each grade level and across the content areas.

BRIS is going to use a combination of **synchronous learning and asynchronous learning**; this gives students the opportunity to learn in real time with their teacher and classmates in the classroom environment as well as independently extending and embedding their learning through pre-recorded sessions, emailed assignments and individual online tasks.

Synchronous vs. Asynchronous Learning

(Cont.)

Synchronous learning refers to a learning event in which a group of participants is engaged in learning at the same time.

The benefits of synchronous learning include:

- Students and teachers can see each other in real time
- Interaction between learners
- Exchange of knowledge and experience between learners
- Real-time feedback for the instructor
- Learning happens on a fixed schedule
- More similar to traditional class setting

Asynchronous learning refers to learning events in which the instructor, the learner, and other participants are not engaged in the learning process at the same time.

This could be a pre-recorded learning session, an emailed packet of assignments, an online task related to curriculum content.

The benefits of asynchronous learning include:

- Instructions can be paused or replayed
- Allows for flexibility
- Allows students who are experiencing difficulties (technical or personal) to access material
- Fosters autonomy and responsibility

How will this be organized at BRIS?

Schedules will be shared with all students during the virtual orientation events taking place this week. Teachers have worked hard to design schedules to ensure learning remains personalized, and also to keep the integrity of our 'nests' and no co-mingling policy.

Please note, that for students engaging in the BRIS On-Campus Learning option, there may be times where they are synchronously linking with teachers on-campus who are delivering learning in a separate classroom. This is so that we can preserve the 'nest' groups that students will be placed in and lower the risk of exposure to more than one 'nest' if there was to be an incident of exposure on-campus.

If in the unfortunate situation that we do need to quarantine a 'nest' away from On-Campus Learning, all students will transition to the Distance Learning Program.

Distance Learning Arrangements: *Elementary*

During the virtual orientations, on Wednesday this week, all students will be introduced to their teacher, their classmates, and receive their learning schedule.

For students engaging in the BRIS Distance Learning Program:

Synchronous Learning

Online learning links will be provided through email for each synchronously scheduled learning session so that students can link with their teacher and class and engage in learning.

Asynchronous Learning/Independent Work

All independent tasks and assignments will be emailed to students and/or parents so that these can be completed individually by students learning from home.

Communication

Teachers will email by Friday afternoon with updates and links for the following week so that parents and students can prepare any resources required for the following week, ask any questions, and keep track of the program.

Distance learners will be notified when they are able to come to campus to pick up assigned texts, etc.

Distance Learning Arrangements: *Middle and High School*

During the virtual orientations, on Wednesday this week, all students will be introduced to their teacher, their classmates and receive their learning schedule.

For students engaging in the BRIS Distance Learning Program,

Synchronous Learning

Online learning links will (as much as possible) be embedded into schedules. If not embedded, students will be emailed a link for the session.

Asynchronous Learning/Independent Work

All independent tasks and assignments will be emailed to students and/or parents so that these can be completed individually by students learning from home.

Communication

Teachers will email by Friday afternoon with updates and links for the following week so that parents and students can prepare any resources required for the following week, ask any questions, and keep track of the program.

Distance learners will be notified when they are able to come to campus to pick up assigned texts, etc.

We are in this together.

Finally, we thank you for working in partnership with us while we work to ensure that we have the best and safest program in place for our students, staff, and families. Please do not hesitate to contact the school or your teacher with any questions or suggestions you may have.

We look forward to welcoming our Pre-k through Grade 12 students back to their choice of school this week!

#BRISStrongerTogether