

Frequently asked questions (FAQ)

Will students and staff members be required to wear face coverings?

Face coverings will be highly recommended at this time and could be mandated at a later date depending on circumstances. When social distancing is not possible face masks should be worn by staff and students. Face masks will be required on buses.

Will the school calendar change for the 2020-2021 school year?

Balko is currently planning for the majority of the school year and hopefully the entire year to be on-site, as long as public health officials deem it safe to do so.

The only change to the calendar currently is the addition of three ½ day distance learning days and one full distance learning day. On Sept. 9, Sept. 23, and October 7, we will dismiss students at 12:00 and on Sept. 6 all day to “practice” distance learning should the need arise to go that route for a short or long term.

Will temperature be taken upon entering the school building?

Yes, all students and staff members will have their temperature taken before entering the building. Any student with a temperature over 100 degrees F will be taken to a room away from other students until someone picks them up. Staff members will be sent home. Students and staff members are encouraged to self-monitor and are asked to remain at home if they have signs and symptoms of illness.

What steps will be taken if there is a student/ staff member who tests positive for COVID-19?

Since each case is unique, Balko Schools will work with public health officials to determine the appropriate next steps. This may require a specific grade, building, or the entire district to temporarily shift to our distance learning plan. We will communicate through Remind, Facebook,

and our school webpage to keep everyone updated to any and all changes that will be needed.

What will determine a temporary school closure?

Our school will be working in partnerships with public and state health officials and agencies. The guidance and recommendations given by those officials and agencies will determine the steps that should be taken.

Will athletics and extracurricular activities take place?

At this time all athletics and extracurricular activities may take place based on guidance from the Oklahoma Secondary Activities Association and the Oklahoma State Department of Education.

When will distance learning be used?

Distance learning will be used when a classroom/school building or the district is closed due to a COVID-19 outbreak or other unforeseen circumstance. Distance learning training days are embedded into the traditional learning calendar in an effort to prepare students and staff for longer, temporary distance learning stints. All information will be sent via Remind, District Facebook page, and the district website (balko.k12.ok.us)

Will meals be available if school buildings are shut down?

All efforts will be made to provide meals to students. We will determine additional details at a later time.

What if a family does not have internet service?

The district's internet service is accessible in the school parking lot. PTCI is providing a discounted internet service and a grant is available through the school. The grant form can be accessed on our website or is also available at the school.

Please contact the school should you have any further questions at 580-646-3385