



## COVID19 Considerations and Contingencies 2021-2022

Our intention this year is to continue to provide quality enrichment programs and our highest priority is the health and safety of your children and our instructors. Given all of the uncertainties this school year, we have done our best to anticipate a variety of possible scenarios that could affect enrichment programs and schedules. To provide a greater degree of clarity to schools, PTAs and families, this document offers assurance about how Big Learning will operate this year and how we plan to respond to various situations.

### **General Information about Big Learning® programs:**

Our normal class capacity is 12 students. We make every effort to secure a regular sized classroom for each of our classes. Please be advised that we do have some virtual options for classes which are listed on our registration site. If there are special circumstances within your own family where you are concerned about in-person classes, please consider signing up for one of our virtual options.

### **Considerations for In-Person Classes**

- All Big Learning instructors are fully vaccinated. If we are required to upload vaccine cards for our instructors, we are prepared to do that.
- All instructors will have hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes in the classrooms.
- We generally allow students to eat snacks brought from home in the hallway or our classroom prior to the start of class. Due to COVID19, we are discontinuing this policy. If your child needs a snack before class, please speak with your child's homeroom teacher at the school about how they can do that.
- All instructors and students will wear masks. If your child is unable to wear a mask, please consider our virtual class options. (Our instructors will have spare single use masks, but we do expect that students will be providing their own.)
- We will be making an effort to maintain space between individual students in the seating plan and during the class. Rather than have students pass out materials during activities or come up to collect their own materials, our instructors will pass out materials to the students at their seats.
  - For our FLES Foreign Language classes, if we are pairing children for dialogue and games, they may work together but will still be socially distanced.
  - For our S&E classes, if we pair students up for collecting data (ex. Sometimes one child needs to time another's activity), they will still be distanced and have separate materials.
- We are packing extra materials and supplies so children will not have to share.

## COVID19 Contingencies

Given all the uncertainties and possible scenarios, we know we will not be able to preaddress everything, however, based on what we know now we have the following contingencies. Please note: our intention is to deliver the full program regardless of scenarios, and therefore we will not be offering refunds.

### 1. *Individual child has to quarantine*

- We will treat this situation as we would any other absence.
- Since we anticipate having virtual options for our classes, if a virtual class is available and schedules allow, we can offer your child participation in a virtual class section while they are home. We will not be able to deliver materials although we can reserve them for your child for when they return to class.
- FLES Foreign Language students do have a workbook that goes back and forth each week. Encourage your child to bring the workbook home after each class so they will have it just in case.
- For some FLES Foreign Language classes, we can also send the student links to YouTube videos of language classes (recorded by Big Learning® instructors).

### 2. *Individual School has to quarantine*

- If one school shuts down for brief quarantine our classes will either be temporarily switched to virtual or postponed on an individual basis depending on how quickly we can get materials to students' homes.
- Some classes may be able to meet virtually without home materials while others will require materials packed and delivered.

### 3a. *MCPS switches to hybrid model and afterschool activities are still allowed*

- On a case by case basis, we will consult with the school PTA and/or administrative staff to continue offering classes in person if allowed.
- If classes need to be switched to virtual, class times may change to allow students to get home for class.

### 3b. *MCPS switches to hybrid model and afterschool activities cannot be held at schools*

- We will switch to virtual classes with a possible two week break in class to allow for material repacking and delivery.
- If classes need to be switched to virtual, class times may change to allow students to get home for class.

### 4. *Governor mandates (or allows) all schools to go virtual*

- We will switch to virtual classes with a possible two week break in class to allow for material delivery.

#### **A Note on our Virtual Classes**

*We held almost every class in a virtual setting last year and we learned quite a bit. We expanded our Science Journals to include the illustrations on our posters so students could see them up close rather than through a small Zoom screen shot. We incorporated many handouts into the Journals so students didn't have to keep track of loose papers. We added more hands-on projects at each level for our language classes to keep students active during class. We packed each week's materials separately and labeled them so students could easily access what they needed. These changes worked so well, we have made them permanent. Most of all we learned that Big Learning® classes can be fun and engaging and educational even when virtual!*