

Rutland Intermediate School:

Return to School 2020!



Welcome back to an extraordinary school year! Do you have questions about the return to school this September? Use this guide as a helpful resource. Contact us at any time if you have other questions or concerns.

Note to families: Please see the *RIS Remote Learning Academy: A Guide for Families FAQ sheet* for information regarding technology and learning in the distance learning program.

General RIS COVID19 Information:

Q: What time does school start and end?

A: Students may begin to arrive at RIS beginning at 7:45 am. Students who arrive after 8:10 am will be considered tardy with the exception of students who arrive late on the school bus. Dismissal will begin at 2:35 pm for Bus 18 and Bus 16, followed by bikers and walkers at 2:40 pm, and remaining Bus dismissal will begin at 2:45 pm.

Q: What are the COVID19 safety protocols and procedures being put in place at RIS?

A: All staff and students are required to wear face masks at all times inside the building and outside when a distance of 6 feet cannot be maintained. Students and staff will complete a daily health screening and have their temperature taken before entering the building everyday. Class rosters have been reduced and are self-contained in grades 3-5, while grade 6 will rotate teachers (not students). Directional signage and hand sanitizer stations have been installed throughout the building. The cafeteria will be closed.

Q: What does the bus/car rider/walker arrival and dismissal procedure look like with COVID19 procedures in place?

A: Drop offs and pick ups for both car and bus riders will remain at the same general location as previous years. Students arriving by car will have their temperature taken by RIS personnel **from their vehicle** and students walking to school will meet RIS personnel at the Church Street entrance to have their temperature taken. Bus riders will have their temperature taken at the bus stop and will enter at the Library Avenue entrance. Dismissal pick up will remain at the same general location but students will be released at staggered intervals to mitigate congestion. These processes will be more time intensive as we work to ensure everyone can enter and exit the building safely.

Q: How will buses operate?

A: *Our buses will run under Step 3 guidelines. This means that there will be some level of distancing and other procedures. Specifically, students and the driver must wear a mask while riding the bus. Students will have assigned seats. Windows on the bus will be open unless there are unusual circumstances. We will leave space between the driver and the first row of seated students. If it is determined that a student is sick while on the bus, that student will be required to ride near the front, away from other students.*

Q: How will the construction around Church Street impact RIS?

A: *City construction around the Library Avenue campus will impact travel for at least the first two weeks of school. There will only be one lane travel going northbound on Church St. Families who are dropping students off at Rutland Intermediate School should travel west on Kendall, turn right onto Church Street, enter the circle for the school on the south side, wait for an adult to come to your vehicle for COVID screening, after passing screening, drop off the student(s), exit the circle on the north side, turning left onto Church Street and head northbound on Church Street. Roberts Avenue is currently undergoing the same construction work and is projected to be open near the end of the month.*

Student pick up in the afternoon will follow this same procedure for dismissal. It is strongly urged that parents do not arrive early to pick up their students from the Rutland Intermediate School.

Q: Where will my child eat their breakfast and lunch?

A: *Students will eat every meal (breakfast, snack, and lunch) in their assigned classroom. Each morning, students will pick up their breakfast at the breakfast station and go directly to their classroom. During breakfast, students will submit their lunch order to their classroom teacher and lunch will be delivered to their classroom. Snacks will be delivered by cafeteria staff to a location near their classroom and prepackaged for each class.*

Q: Can my child play on the playground?

A: *Yes. We recognize the need for children to get outside and move, especially with COVID19 protocols in place. The playground equipment will be sanitized.*

Q: What should my child bring to school with them?

A: *3 clean face masks. Chromebook (fully charged). Additional personal supplies can be brought in since items will not be shared between students (pencils, scissors, glue, crayons, etc).*

Q: What if my student forgets to bring a mask to school?

A: *We have a limited number of masks available to supply to students, but we ask that you include masks as one of the materials that your student needs in the return to school. Please*

make sure to place a name or initials on each mask so that they do not become misidentified. Please remember to clean your student's mask daily.

Q: Are there exceptions to the mask rule?

A: There may be medical reasons why a student cannot wear a mask covering. If that is the case, we expect that the parent will facilitate communication between our school nurse and the doctor's office to reach a level of understanding. We require clear documentation from a doctor. A student may have other health concerns that are associated with a student's IEP Plan, a 504 Plan, or a specific health plan on file. If that is the case, the student's school team will take on that consideration. Of course, when students are having meals at school, each can remove a mask to eat. Teachers are also considering ways to allow a student or a group a "mask break." That might look like a short time period in a quiet setting, perhaps outside, in which a student could remove a mask. Additionally, outside activities that allow for appropriate distancing can provide students a time period to remove a mask.

Q: Who is the district COVID19 Coordinator?

A: The COVID-19 Coordinator role is for a school nurse to help the district understand and implement the health guidance received from the state. Rutland High School nurse Justine Franko serves in that capacity for Rutland City Public Schools. She and the district's team of school nurses work together with our building staff in developing our practices aligned to state guidelines.

Q: My child had a temperature that registered at or above 100.4, what should I do next?

A: If your child's temperature registers above 100.4, the school nurse will be notified and your child will be sent to the nurse's office or an isolation station for a second temperature reading. If it is determined that your child does have a temperature at or above 100.4, you will be called and asked to pick up your child. Your child can return to school after 72 hours have passed (without fever-reducing medication) or after 24 hours with a doctor's note.

Q: What happens if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in school?

A: If COVID-19 is confirmed in a student or staff member, our schools will work with the Department of Health to determine next steps. Identification of a student or adult with COVID-19 in the school is not an indication to close the entire school. The Department of Health is developing materials and protocols to use with schools to support response actions and decisions.

Q: What will contact tracing look like at RIS?

A: Teachers will submit daily attendance each morning and will also have sign out/sign in forms for when students leave the classroom to use the bathroom and for periods longer than 15

minutes (small group sessions, counselor meetings, etc). This information will be collected by the principal everyday and provided to local public health officials should contract tracing need to be conducted.

Q: Would an RCPS school close if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19?

A: Not necessarily. Unless the Department of Health orders all schools in the state to return to Step I, the decision to close schools or certain classrooms for in-person instruction will be made by the superintendent in consultation with the Department of Health.

Q: How can we best support RIS?

A: We greatly appreciate your support for our school and student body. We ask for your partnership in helping your child remember to wear their mask for the safety of others, engage in safe and healthy hygiene, and to stay up to date via our Facebook page and School Messenger notification system.

Learning and Communication:

Q: How will I get information about assignments, progress, and other classroom news?

A: Teachers will assign activities and lessons via Google Classroom and host virtual meetings and online classes via Google Meets. Families can contact their child's teacher directly through email and the Remind app, in addition to receiving schoolwide news and updates via Schoolmessenger, Facebook, and the school website.

Q: How/where should my kid keep track of their assignments?

A: Generally, Google Classroom. Google Calendar can also easily synch assignments and deadlines but using a traditional planner or notebook to keep track of assignments works just as well.

Q: What should we do if we have technical difficulties or our device breaks?

A: Please notify your RLA teacher first as they can help you with passwords, login information, and navigation new programs and platforms. Should a Chromebook need repair or is not functioning properly, please notify the administration and we will work with our IT department to remedy the issue.