

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
Riverside Township School District
112 E Washington Street
Riverside, NJ 08075
Robin A. Ehrich, Superintendent

Dear Riverside Families,

August 28, 2020

In this unprecedented time when no aspect of our lives have been untouched by the COVID-19 pandemic we find ourselves preparing for another school year. Although it will look profoundly different in these strange and unpredictable times we are ready to welcome your children back to school for both in person instruction and remote learning.

The maintenance staff and administrative team have worked hard over the summer to prepare our schools to accommodate social distancing and provide protective safety measures in classrooms and throughout the buildings. We have installed protective screening at main office counters and are awaiting material for the secretary's desks. We have ordered portable partitions for use in individual meetings and in preschool and kindergarten classrooms. We expect to have all classroom screening in place by September 1st. We have posted signage for health and safety. Markings have been placed on floors throughout the buildings and leading up to the entrances to promote social distancing. Student desks and tables have been arranged to promote six-foot distancing. Sixty sanitation stations have been mounted on walls throughout our buildings as well as in the 75 classrooms that do not have running water/washing stations. Our updated *Restart and Recovery Plan to Reopen Schools* has been posted to the district website www.riverside.k12.nj.us under **Coronavirus Information/Remote Learning Information**.

All students and staff members will be required to wear face coverings for the duration of the time they are in the school buildings. Students will enter the buildings in the morning through designated entry points. You will receive grade specific door assignments from each school Principal.

Health Screening Statement of Assurance:

We are requiring each parent of a child attending school through the in person Hybrid learning platform to complete a verification of daily health screening. We are asking you to partner with us to help create a safer and healthier school environment for everyone by screening your children for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 before sending them to school each day. This is a one-time statement of assurance and will be completed through the Genesis parent portal. Once logged into the portal you will click on the forms tab and then on the COVID Form. After reading the assurance please check the box and click update answers. Please complete this assurance for each child attending school through the Hybrid platform. Access to the portal will be available on August 31st. All school staff are being required to complete a similar assurance. Per our reopening plan we will take temperatures and visually screen all students upon arrival to school each day.

Meals:

Wednesday, September 2nd ONLY: All Remote students and Cohort A students may pick up meals for the week between 11 am - 12 pm at the MS/HS cafeteria.

Beginning on Thursday, September 3rd and for all days our schools are open we will follow the schedule as listed below.

Elementary students: Lunches will be distributed in the classroom for those students purchasing a meal or receiving a free or reduced lunch on the days they attend school. Upon leaving school on the second day of attendance, students will take 3 days' worth of meals home (3 breakfasts, 3 lunches). Teachers will collect money for paid lunches.

Middle School and High School students: Students receiving or purchasing breakfast will enter through the cafeteria courtyard entrance. Students will be rung up by the cashier, breakfast will be eaten in the classroom. Lunches will be picked up in the cafeteria at the end of the day. Upon leaving school on the second day of attendance, students will be rung up for an additional 3 days' worth of meals (3 breakfasts, 3 lunches).

Students on All Remote schedule: Meals (for 5 days) will be available for pick up on Wednesdays in the MS/HS cafeteria (between 11 am - 12 pm).

Calendar: Please note that all days listed as early dismissal days on the calendar will follow the same 8 am - 12:30 pm schedule through the entirety of the pandemic. All public schools in NJ will be closed on Election Day to in-person instruction. We will follow an all remote schedule for all students on November 3, 2020.

After weeks of extensive planning and preparation we are ready to reopen our schools. Our number one priority continues to be the health and safety of students and staff members. Our routines, habits and procedures will all look and feel differently. After our reopening we will continuously review our procedures, evaluate what is working and make adjustments to areas where we recognize improvements can be made. Creating this new normal will take teamwork, cooperation and all of us working together to make this school year a success.

Please be reminded that if the health crisis worsens we may be faced with a school closure similar to what we experienced last March. We must all be prepared to pivot to an all remote learning platform should this occur. It is my hope however, that we have the opportunity to slowly open our classrooms to a larger number of students and we can transition to an all in person learning model when it is safe to do so.

Our teachers, support staff and administrative team are eager to welcome your children to the new school year and are excited to see them back in our classrooms for both in person and virtual learning. Finally, let's keep in mind we are living through a pandemic and although there isn't a playbook for this we will use all of our efforts and resources to create an environment where your children receive the meaningful and high quality instruction you've come to expect in Riverside. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with your questions or concerns as we stand prepared to support you and your children as we begin the new year. I thank you for your continued trust in us and your support of Riverside Schools. Welcome back!

Sincerely,

Robin A. Ehrich
Superintendent of Schools