

## **ROCKY MOUNTAIN SCHOOL 2023-2024**

### **RETURN TO LEARN – Learning Options and FAQ**

\*\*\*The details of this plan are subject to change as new information and/or regulations are instituted from health officials and governing officials. This plan has been created through thoughtful input from various sources including but not limited to parent and staff surveys, CDC recommendations, state department of education, RM Return to Learn parent/staff/community committee. It is designed with the utmost concern for our students and staff.

It is evident that much of the world is experiencing unprecedented times and changes. As much as we would like to return to school, “just like it was”, that is simply not going to be the case. We will however, make every effort to keep and create normalcy or a new normalcy within our building and each classroom. No matter what schedules, procedures and routines change, our commitment to kids remain the same. We will adapt and overcome, all while doing our best each day to help students succeed. “Once a Rocket, Always a Rocket!”

We understand that there will be a need for choices in learning options. We would love for all families to return to traditional school so that we can have in person contact with all students each day. While some families are ready for their students to return to a traditional in-person school day, others will prefer to enroll their students in a virtual learning option in which students will remain home under the care and supervision of a parent. It is for these reasons, we will have learning options and parents may choose what is best for their family.

### **LEARNING OPTIONS**

#### **Option 1 – Traditional in-person learning (3 year olds – 8th grade)**

- Teachers will provide face to face instruction
- Students will attend class in person, Monday – Friday.
- During the traditional day, students will become familiar with and practice distance learning platforms and websites. This will provide for a more effective transition should we have to cancel school and move into a distance learning plan due to Covid-19.
- Students will remain in homeroom classrooms for the majority of classes. Teachers will rotate as necessary and needed for instruction.
- Breakfast and lunch will be served on-site

#### **Option 2 – Virtual learning**

- Will need approval from superintendent.  
Students will attend class while remaining at home while using on-line content management system provided by Rocky Mountain School.
- All assignments will be submitted online
- The following are examples of platforms, learning management and content management systems that may be utilized: Alpha Plus, Reading Works, Moby Max, Google Classroom, Seesaw.  
Other curriculum and resources may be utilized as well.
- Breakfast and lunch will be provided for pickup. Details released as needed.
- Families choosing this option will need to notify RM School ASAP in order to apply for this option.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Will my child need a mask or face covering?**

- Use of masks are a personal decision between the student and their family. expected to provide any additional masks or face coverings. We suggest face coverings that do not require to be tied.
- We expect each student and faculty member to respect individuals and their decisions to wear or not to wear a mask.
- 5th-8th grade students will have required times throughout the day in which face coverings will be required. This may include classrooms, hallways, common meeting areas. Face coverings will not be required when social distancing can be accomplished.

### **Will staff members be required to wear masks or face coverings?**

- All staff members will use their discretion as to whether or not to wear a mask. Wearing a mask is a personal decision.

### **What kind of precautions is the school taking concerning screening for COVID-19?**

- We encourage parents to check their child's temperature each morning and check for COVID-related symptoms. If a child has a fever over 100 or is displaying any symptoms, we ask that that you keep the child home.
- Staff members will self-assess each morning and remain home if they exhibit fever or symptoms

### **What kind of precautions is the school taking concerning cleanliness and hygiene?**

- Encourage frequent hand washing
- Encourage social distancing
- Hand sanitizer dispensers will be in various locations
- Each room will have additional sanitizing spray, disposable gloves, and wipes to use as necessary
- Restriction of non-essential visitors in the building
- Additional routine sanitizing of building and buses using sanitizing supplies and equipment

### **Will parents and/or visitors be allowed in the building?**

- In order to reduce non-essential traffic in buildings, in general, parents and visitors will not be allowed in the buildings.
- Emergencies and exceptions will be approved by the superintendent.
- All parents and visitors entering the building will be subject to temperature check and must wear a mask.

### **Will parents be allowed to attend meetings, parent conferences, and open house?**

- We are currently exploring hosting an outdoor open house in which families will arrive at certain times by last names. If we do not host this event, teachers will reach out to families through phone

calls, mail, virtual meetings, etc.

- When possible, parent meetings (including IEP meetings) will be conducted on the phone or through a virtual platform such as Zoom

**Will buses run the regular routes?**

- Buses will run regular routes. Masks are optional.

**Will the school continue to provide extended care and/or Boys and Girls Club?**

- Morning extended care will be available for students whose parents have to report to work before 7:30 AM. Documentation from parent's employer may be required. Regular drop-off time will be between 7:30 – 7:55 AM. The school day begins at 8:00 AM.
- Afternoon extended care for Pre-K – 1st grade will be available for students whose parents are working. Documentation of required work schedule from parent's employer may be required.
- Boys and Girls club will continue to offer services for 2nd-8th grade. If they would determine not to offer services, extended care will become available under the same requirements of lower grade extended care.

**Will breakfast and lunch be served each day?**

- Meals will be served daily.
- Breakfast will be distributed in the cafeteria for PreK – 4<sup>th</sup> grade and 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be served in the gym concession and eat in classrooms
- Lunch schedules will be adjusted in order to reduce the number of students in the cafeteria at any one time.
- Menus will be planned with our student population's likes and dislikes kept in mind.

**Will 5th – 8th grade change classes each hour?**

- Students will change classes each hour.

**Will students continue to receive special classes such as arts, Cherokee, computers, PE and recess?**

- All students will continue special classes on the usual schedule by grade level. When appropriate, teachers will present lessons in homerooms, rather than a room that is shared by different grade levels throughout the day.
- Recess schedules will be staggered so that fewer students are on the playground at any one time.

**What if my child has an IEP and needs Special Education Services?**

- All students on an IEP will continue to receive services which are outlined in each student's IEP goals. Special Education teachers, paras, and contract staff will continue to serve and advocate for students with special needs. Parents are always welcome to call and ask to speak with staff with any concern that may arise.

**What if my child becomes sick during the school day?**

- If a child becomes sick, he/she will be taken to the office and assessed for illness and have their temperature taken. If the child has fever or exhibits other signs of illness, the student will be sent

home. Parents will be called and will need to make arrangements to pick up their child within one hour or less of receiving the call. If the child exhibits a fever or signs of contagious symptoms, they will be placed in an area which is isolated to the general population and supervised by an adult until parents arrive.

- Depending upon screening questions of the parent, the student may need to follow CDC guidelines for possible testing and quarantine.
- If no quarantine is required, students must be fever free without any use of fever-reducing Medication for at least 24 hours before returning to school.

#### **What if an individual in the school tests positive for COVID-19?**

- In the event an individual tests positive, we will be working directly with the Oklahoma State Department of Health and/or Cherokee Nation Health Services to determine what steps should be taken. We will follow FERPA and HIPAA guidelines while still notifying families in a timely manner. It may be such that certain individuals or classrooms are required to quarantine. It may also require the entire school be closed for a period of time and everyone transition to distance learning until safe for reopening.

As the August 9th start date approaches, additional information will be made available. If you have questions or need clarity on an issue, please email Mrs. Ketcher at [aketcher@rockymtn.k12.ok.us](mailto:aketcher@rockymtn.k12.ok.us). Questions will be answered in a timely manner.

It is our hope that a remedy becomes available and many of our new restrictions can be lifted. Some of the new procedures, pandemic or not, will help in general health concerning spreading of flu, strep, stomach bugs, etc. Will we agree with 100% with everything concerning new requirements, policies and procedures that are being put into place? Probably not. That's one reason that each family will have options concerning traditional or virtual. No matter what, it is important that we support and uplift each other with our words and actions through this entire process. Children imitate our behaviors and deserve to see us working together in what is the best interest of all staff and students. We are a family. That's what families do. There is no doubt this year is going to be full of unique challenges. But by working together, we are looking forward to a great year!