Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year!

START AND END TIME
Elementary: 8:35am - 3:35pm
Secondary: 7:40am - 2:30pm

INSTRUCTIONAL RESPONSE
We intend to have face-to-face instruction in all buildings every day unless mandated to close by public health order.

- Students on mandated quarantine will be allowed to participate in synchronous classroom lessons.
- There may be times during the school year where a classroom or section meets remotely to mitigate illness.

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL
- Symptomatic or otherwise sick students should not be sent to school.
- Symptomatic students will be sent home from school. Symptomatic students in grades 7-12 will be required to wear a mask in the health room while awaiting pickup.
- RPS will continue contact tracing and notify the KCHD of potential close contacts based on school exposure.

FACE COVERINGS
RPS will follow requirements from KCHD and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Effective Monday, August 23rd, face coverings will be required inside our buildings for the following groups:

- All students in pre-kindergarten (age four and over) through 6th grade, regardless of vaccination status
- All staff serving students in pre-kindergarten (age four and over) through 6th grade regardless of vaccination status. For Rockford Schools, this includes any and all staff assigned to any preschool and child care program, elementary building, East Rockford Middle School or North Rockford Middle School regardless of the grade level assigned.
- At this time there is no requirement for face coverings for students in grades 7 and above while in school buildings, however the Kent County Health Department, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and the Centers for Disease Control strongly urges everyone to wear a face covering regardless of vaccination status.
- Per federal guidelines, masks are required on public school transportation including RPS school buses.
MENTAL AND SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

- RPS has resources available to assist students that are in need. Please contact your school’s social worker or counselor for additional assistance.
- In an ongoing effort to identify and support students, a student wellness survey will be administered during the start of the school year.

CLEANING AND SANITIZATION OF SCHOOLS

RPS will continue to use protocols as outlined by the MDHHS and KCHD. The same cleaning and sanitizing protocols will be followed as were implemented for the 2020/21 school year, including the use of electro-static sanitizing systems each evening and between bus routes.

- RPS will utilize increased air circulation and exchange through our HVAC system.
- RPS will have sanitizing wipes available for staff/student use.

LUNCHROOM PROCEDURES

- Students will eat lunch in the cafeteria in their classroom cohorts at the elementary level and in grade level cohorts at the secondary level. Social distancing practices will be maximized to the extent possible. When possible, students will have access to outdoor eating areas.
- Hand washing/hand sanitizing will be required before lunch.
- Self-service of food items will be limited.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Athletics will participate per the MHSAA guidelines including gathering size, face coverings and athlete testing. The MHSAA website will have the most up-to-date information.
- Other school-based activities may be offered with heightened safety and security measures.

TRANSPORTATION

- Students will be assigned seats and face coverings are required per federal order section 42 CFR §§ 70.1, 71.1.
- Weather permitting, windows will be opened to provide increased ventilation.
- Buses will be cleaned and sanitized between every run.

GATHERINGS

RPS will follow MDHHS gathering size and requirements for all school organized and community-based events using our facilities. Attendees that are unvaccinated will be strongly encouraged to wear face coverings. The district will react accordingly to limit gathering if necessary due to increased COVID spread in our community.

COMMUNITY FACILITY USE

- In order to access our facilities, all outside community groups will be required to follow public health orders.
- The district’s facilities are currently open to community use through the approval process. Visitors that are unvaccinated to our buildings will be strongly encouraged to wear face masks while indoors.
- All outside groups will be required to submit a COVID mitigation strategy plan as part of their application.

VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

- For the purpose of supporting educational initiatives, volunteers during the instructional day may be utilized at the discretion of the building principal.
- School visitors during the instructional day will be limited.
- All visitors and volunteers in our Elementary and Middle School buildings must wear a face covering.
- Student items shall be dropped off in the secure vestibules of each building during the instructional day.

RECESS

Students will participate in recess within cohorted zones as they did the previous year. Masks are not required.

LOCKERS

Students will have access to lockers.