



REOPENING PLAN

OPENING THOUGHT

We have missed you. As we begin this school year ask yourself “What did I miss the most?” For our teachers and staff the most immediate answer is “our kids.” We lost out on some of our most precious moments together. We missed our day to day routines and structure. We missed being part of a thriving, supportive community.

As we enter into this new school year it will certainly look very different than it has in the past. There will be changes and challenges that we wish did not have to occur and we might find ourselves frustrated and upset along the way.

Please remember we are in this together. Our challenges and choices will create opportunity.

Thank you for being our students.

Please note this plan is subject to change according to the guidance and recommendations by the County and State Health Department, Department of Education and the Governor's Office.

Richmond Community Schools full reopening plan is available at <http://www.rcs.k12.in.us/files/Reopening%20Plan%20July%202022%202020.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1fyFrZ9BplzqSzgzvxp4Y-RbLUzEJ86Cby2-Fm6q7JGIL0ZkC8OOdmGdk>

SCHOOL START DATE

We plan to open schools on our regularly scheduled start date of **Wednesday, August 12, 2020.**

Due to new procedures and virtual instruction, schools will be on an early release (Tuesday) schedule beginning August 12th to September 1st. We will return to normal hours on September 2, 2020, with early release on Tuesdays.

Dismissal Times August 12, 2020 - September 1, 2020:

	Monday-Friday
Elementary Schools	1:40 p.m.
Hibberd Building	2:34 p.m.
Intermediate Schools/ Richmond High	2:49 p.m.
Community Youth Services (Baxter)	2:00 p.m.

Dismissal Times Beginning September 2, 2020:

	Monday, Wednesday-Friday	Tuesdays
Elementary Schools	2:40 p.m.	1:40 p.m.
Hibberd Building	3:15 p.m.	2:34 p.m.
Intermediate Schools/ Richmond High	3:30 p.m.	2:49 p.m.
Community Youth Services (Baxter)	2:00 p.m.	2:00 p.m.

TRANSITIONING BACK TO SCHOOL

We encourage parents to talk positively with, reassure, and support their children about these changes, and the importance of social distancing and wearing masks.

- Allow your child to ask questions and answer them to the best of your ability. Talking with children about COVID-19
- Explain the why behind wearing a mask and have your child practice wearing their mask.
- Follow recommended guidelines regarding masks and social distancing this summer to help prevent a future surge in cases that might impact the start of school.
- Help students get back into a normal schedule at least a week before school begins, such as reinstating bedtime and wake up routines.
 - Be sure that all your child's immunizations are up to date, including newly required immunizations students entering kindergarten, 6th and 12th grades.
 - Make sure your contact information is updated. There will be automated voice messages, mailings, and social media posts going out, as well as updates on our website. www.werrichmond.com
 - Stay in close communication with your school should your health situation or return plans change.

VISITORS

Until further notice, we will be minimizing the need for visitors to be in the building to promote health, safety and social distancing.

Please be sure to watch for updates and guidance from RCS and each school, as many of our normal back-to-school routines and traditions have changed.

ATTENDANCE

Students and staff should not be in buildings if they are experiencing any symptoms of illness.

We'll be reviewing our overall attendance policies for staff and students, as well as eliminating any attendance recognitions that could encourage attending school when not feeling well. More information on the specific attendance policy changes will be coming at a later date.

PREVENTATIVE STEPS TO REDUCE TRANSMISSION RISK

Our number one priority is the safety and well being of our students and staff. Preventative measures include, but are not limited to:

Screening

The current [CDC guidelines](#) recommend screening all students and employees for COVID-19 symptoms and history of exposure. Screening can consist of self-screening, school-based screening, and/or medical inquiries. The type and extent of screening is at the discretion of the district/school.

- **Self-Screening**

Parents and caretakers play a vital role in the well being of their children. Parents need to be attentive to the health of their children, including taking their temperature daily and checking for symptoms.

Symptoms Impacting Consideration for Exclusion from School

- A fever of 100.4 F or greater
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Nausea, diarrhea, abdominal pain
- [Symptoms of the Coronavirus from the CDC](#)

Students must be fever free for 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medication to return to school. School staff will also be receiving professional development on how to recognize potential COVID-19 symptoms. Entry into our buildings will be reserved for essential business, and no one should be in our buildings if they are experiencing any symptoms of illness. Click here for more information from the [CDC on self-screening](#). Students and employees exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 without being otherwise explained, are prohibited from coming to school, and if they do come to school, they will be sent home immediately.

- **School-Based Screening**

Temperature Screening

Using temperature checks for screening purposes can present challenges. RCS is not planning on screening temperatures as students and staff are entering the building and/or loading buses. We may take the temperature of students, employees and visitors on school property on a random basis or in situations where there is reason to believe that the person may be ill. Touch-free thermometers will be utilized.

Observations/Self-Reported Screening

RCS will provide professional development regarding the recognition of COVID-19 symptoms and screening. Students and employees exhibiting

symptoms of COVID-19 without being otherwise explained should not come to school.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Arrival - Students will be allowed entry into the building at 7:15. Students who ride a bus will enter through door 10. Students who walk or are car riders will enter through door 1. All students will report straight to their classroom.

Dismissal - Car riders and walking students will be dismissed at 1:55 through door 1. Students who ride a bus will be dismissed by classrooms at 2:00 through door 10.

Lunch - Students will eat lunch in the cafeteria and have assigned seats. If classes become large enough that appropriate distancing cannot be achieved in the cafeteria then some classes will eat lunch in the classroom. If eating in the classroom students will be escorted to the cafeteria to pick up lunch.

Assigned Seating - Seats will be assigned at all times in the building.

Restroom - Restroom breaks will be given by classrooms so we can closely monitor contact tracing.

Coat/Book Room - All school supplies are provided by CYS (do NOT bring school supplies from home). Students will have access to an area in their first classroom of the day for coats.

MASKS

If students and staff are unable to socially distance, a mask must be worn. Masks will be required on buses, while entering and exiting the school building, while picking up food in the cafeteria line, and any other time they are outside the classroom. Masks will be worn in the classroom when social distancing is not possible. Please review Governor Holcomb's [mask mandate](#) beginning 7/27/2020. "Mask breaks" will be given during the day and may include outside breaks (with social distancing).

BUILDING CLEANING

Classrooms, hallways, and restrooms will be cleaned/sanitized periodically throughout the day. See RCS reopening plan for detailed cleaning/sanitation plan.

LAPTOP DISINFECTING

Students should NOT share devices. If a student requires a loaner device it will be sanitized prior to student use and after student use. Students will have wipes to clean/sanitize devices throughout the day.

TRANSPORTATION

See RCS reopening plan for full transportation (bus) details. Walkers and car riders should not arrive until 7:15 am daily and will remain outside until the building opens at 7:15.

FIRE/SAFETY DRILLS

Please refer to the [IDOE guidance](#) for Fire/Safety drills.

WATER FOUNTAINS

Water fountains will be shut off during the day. Students will be provided bottles of water during breakfast, lunch and one break.

ATHLETICS

Please review our athletic policy at <https://richmondreddevils.com/>.

MENTAL HEALTH/SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

We recognize the importance of providing students and staff with extra social and emotional support as they return to school this year. That guidance is located at <https://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/sebw/road-map-sel-reentry.pdf>.

Our mental health providers will be ready to assist students and staff in need of support. Centerstone will continue to partner with Richmond Community Schools. If you are interested in your student receiving these services please contact the Centerstone Master Level Therapist at your school.

You may call the front office for contact information.

[Centerstone](#) (765-983-8005) and [Meridian Health Services](#) (765-939-2395) are two resources often used in the Wayne County Area for mental health supports or additional information can be found by inputting your zip code at <https://lookupindiana.org>

Communities and Schools will continue to serve the needs of our students and families.