



## **Dennis Intermediate Reopening Plan**

### **Message from the Principal**

We have missed you. No doubt when you ask our staff what they missed most, they say “our kids.” We know you’ve also missed out on some of your favorite end-of-year celebrations, trips, assemblies and activities. You probably have spent a large part of the last 4 months in a very different routine than what you are used to. We missed our day to day routines and structure. We missed being part of a thriving, supportive community. We miss people!

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!  
Mrs. VanDervort

#weRDennis

## **Hybrid Start Model for Dennis Intermediate, Test Intermediate, and Richmond High School**

In an effort to further reduce the number of students at our most populated buildings, Richmond Community Schools will be moving to a hybrid start to the school year for Dennis, Test, and Richmond High School. Students will be divided into two groups and will alternate between in-person and virtual instruction for the first 6 weeks of school. Schools will work to accommodate families so siblings can have the same schedules, if needed.

Please note that certain Career Technical Education block classes may require students to attend in person on a daily basis.

Parents/Guardians of students at Dennis, Test, and Richmond High School selecting virtual instruction will have the option to switch to the hybrid start model. Additional information will be communicated with parents/guardians of students at Dennis, Test, and Richmond High School. The hybrid start model will be re-evaluated to determine if an extension is necessary.

Food service will be available for all students, both in-person and virtual. More information will be communicated prior to the start of the school year.

**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%2022%202020.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1fyFrZ9BplzqSzgzvxp4Y-RbLUzEJ86Cby2-Fm6q7JGIL0ZkC8O0dmGdk>

# Hybrid Start Model In-Person Instructional Day Calendar

**Group #1--Students with Last Names A-L\***

**Group #2--Students with Last Names M-Z\***

\*Family members living in the same households may be assigned on the same day at parent request

## August 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 School Starts Group 1	13 Group 2	14 Group 1	15
16	17 Group 1	18 Group 2	19 Group 1	20 Group 2	21 Group 2	22
23	24 Group 1	25 Group 2	26 Group 1	27 Group 2	28 Group 1	29
30	31 Group 1					

## September 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Group 2	2 Group 1	3 Group 2	4 Group 2	5
6	7 Labor Day No School	8 Group 2	9 Group 1	10 Group 2	11 Group 1	12
13	14 Group 1	15 Group 2	16 Group 1	17 Group 2	18 Group 2	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

## **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:**

Intermediate Buildings/Richmond High School 2:49

### **Dismissal Times Beginning September 2, 2020:**

Intermediate Schools/Richmond High M,W,R,F 3:30 T 2:49

## **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](http://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 24 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 The building will open at 8:05. Walkers and riders should not arrive until 8:00 am daily and will remain outside until the first bell at 8:05.

All students will enter through door 4 by the south parking lot. 5th grade students will report to the small gym, 6th grade students will go to the cafeteria. 5th and 6th grade students will be escorted to class by first period teachers. After 8:15, all students will enter through door 1. 7/8th grade students will go directly to 1st period after putting their items into lockers. All students should be masked as they enter the building.

Dismissal Students will be called by grade level at the end of the day to access lockers and be dismissed by grade to ensure safe distancing in the hallways.

Breakfast Students will eat breakfast in the classroom. All students will have an opportunity to have breakfast.

Lunch Students will have assigned seats at lunch. Students will all face the same direction with limited seating at each table. Students will be called to lunch lines one row at a time ensuring social distancing. Trash will be picked up at individual tables.

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

Passing Periods Passing periods will be staggered by grade between each period. Students will walk one way in the hall when possible. Lockers will only be accessed at the beginning and end of the day unless by individual pass.

### Restroom

Restrooms will be closed during passing periods. Restroom breaks will be given by classrooms so we can closely monitor contact tracing.

Lockers Students will have locker access at the beginning and end of the school day (staggered). Students will not be permitted to access lockers

during passing periods. Students should plan to carry supplies for the day from the beginning of school (backpacks will not be permitted).

Library/Media Students will rotate in small, socially distanced groups to access library materials. All books that are returned will sit for a minimum of 72 hours prior to entering recirculation.

### **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 during passing periods. 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 will be sanitized between class periods. Lockers, 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.

### **Transportation**

See RCS reopening plan for full transportation (bus) details. Walkers and riders should not arrive until 8:00 am daily and will remain outside until the first bell at 8:05.

### **Physical Education**

Students returning the Fall of 2020 will focus on individual goals and growth. Once students return to group play students will sanitize their

hands prior using shared equipment. Shared equipment will be sanitized after group use.

### **Band/Orchestra/Choir**

Music classes may meet in alternative locations to accommodate larger sizes. Instruments will not be shared.

### **Fire/Safety Drills**

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

### **Water Fountains**

Water fountains will be shut off during the day. Please send your student with a full water bottle each day. Students will also be provided up to three bottles of water a day (breakfast,lunch,afternoon).

### **Athletics**

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

### **After School Programming**

All after school clubs and programming will begin at the discretion of the sponsor following RCS reopening plans.

### **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 counselors and 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 In Schools will continue to serve the needs of our students and families. Please contact Katie Scott 765-973-3495 or [kscott@rcs.k12.in.us](mailto:kscott@rcs.k12.in.us).