

Hibberd Plan for Reopening
2020-2021



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.

The Dismissal Time August 12, 2020-September 1, 2020 will be at **2:34.**

The Dismissal Times Beginning September 2, 2020 will be at **3:15.**

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/Richmond%20Community%20Schools%20Updated%20Reopening%20Plan%208-7-2020.pdf>

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.

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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 Door 1 will open at 8:00 for breakfast only students in the cafeteria; otherwise, students will remain outside until 8:20. Door 5 (bus entrance) will open for breakfast only students upon arrival; otherwise, students will remain outside until 8:20. **Life Skills students riding the bus will enter Door 4. *All Life Skills students will have breakfast in their classrooms.*

Dismissal Students will be called by grade level to access lockers and be dismissed to ensure safe distancing in the hallways. (2:30--3rd and 4th grades and 5th and 6th grades; 2:34 bell--7th and 8th grades).

Lunch Students will have assigned seats at lunch with no more than 4 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 Students will walk on the right side of the hallway when possible. Passing periods will be staggered by teachers.

Restroom Restrooms will be closed during passing periods. Restroom breaks will be given by teachers.

Lockers Teachers will stagger access to lockers by program.

Library/Media Students will rotate in small groups by teachers. 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. Students will have wipes to clean/sanitize devices throughout the day.

Transportation

See RCS reopening plan for full transportation (bus) details. Walkers and riders should not arrive until 8:00 daily.

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 need to meet in alternative locations as needed to accommodate larger size. 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 marked with first and last name each day. Students will also be provided bottles of water at breakfast and lunch.

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 counselor and CIS will be ready to assist students and staff in need of support. Centerstone will continue to partner with Richmond Community Schools.

[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 is new at Hibberd this year to serve the needs of our students and families. Please contact Allison Hersey at 973-8216 for more information.