

The 2020-2021 Back to School Re-Opening Plan was approved by our Board of Education on July 28th and is available for your review on our [website](#).

DATE AND TIMES

- First Day of School: September 8, 2020
- Schedule for Learning for **both** in-person and remote instruction:

8:10 a.m. - 2:25 p.m. Ledgewood/Stone Creek/Kinnikinnick
8:10 a.m. – 10:40 a.m. EC/PK morning session
11:55 a.m. – 2:25 p.m. EC/PK afternoon session
9:14 a.m. – 3:20 p.m. Roscoe Middle School

- Students in **both** environments will utilize district grade level curriculum and will follow the District grading policy. Although the environment differs, our high standards remain the same.

A video presentation of the plan was presented to the Board of Education on July 28th and will be made available on our district website.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

The District is providing families a choice between two learning environments, while our region remains in Phase 4 of Restore Illinois.

- **Learning Environment #1: IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION**
- **Learning Environment #2: REMOTE LEARNING 2.0**

Please note that families who choose in-person instruction must be prepared for **possible short-term and rolling closures**, regardless of community spread. **Families and staff should expect transitions between remote and in-person learning throughout Phase 4 due to the impact of COVID-19.**

SELECTION PROCESS

Families will choose between the two environments for their student(s). To assist you in making the decision, we have created a robust Back to School Re-Opening Plan guidebook which is available on the district website (<http://www.kinn131.org/>).

All parents must select their program option by **THURSDAY, AUGUST 6TH**. This must be done by completing the Back to School Year 2020-2021 Form which can be accessed using the link below or by visiting our district website.

<https://forms.gle/Apday4qXS6EoMB9v9>.

FAQ's

Health and Safety:

Q: What is your advice/suggestion for staff or students who have a chronic condition such as asthma or seasonal allergies?

A: Students and staff with medical conditions should consult with their medical professional. The District will be conducting an intake survey prior to the first day to identify diagnosed chronic health conditions and social emotional well-being for all staff and students. If there is any question regarding health and safety, the District will contact the Winnebago County Health Department to complete follow up with the parents.

Q: What are the criteria for a student needing to stay home due to illness? What are the criteria for them being able to return to school?

A: "When in doubt, keep them out." Any student who exhibits **any** symptoms of COVID, must stay home and the district is required to contact the Winnebago County Health Department. The health department and school will complete all follow up with the family to determine next steps and when the student can return to school. The timelines will vary based on each unique situation.

Q: When is a student or teacher required to get a COVID test?

A: This will be determined by the Winnebago County Health Department.

Q: Are masks required the entire day or just specific times?

A: Masks are the rule with the exceptions of: eating, drinking, and while outside for class activities, recess, and PE. Masks must be worn for arrival and dismissal.

Q: If a child/parent/sibling/class has to quarantine, will remote learning be put into effect for the time being?

A: The family and educational team will make a plan in response to each individual situation. The District is prepared to transition between remote and in-person learning.

Q: Will quarantine of students, who do not have symptoms, only happen when another student they have had close contact with has tested positive, or also when a student is suspected of being positive?

A: Isolation/quarantine of close contacts will be directed by the WCHD when there is a close contact to a positive test and when a student or staff is suspected of being positive. Contact tracing will be completed to determine close contacts.

Q: If a student tests positive in the classroom, or shows symptoms and is sent home, will all students have to isolate/quarantine for 14 days?

A: Isolation/quarantine of close contacts will be directed by the WCHD when there is a close contact to a positive test and when a student or staff is suspected of being positive. Contact tracing will be completed to determine close contacts.

Q: If a student's classroom has to quarantine, what about a sibling who goes to a different school? Will they also have to quarantine?

Isolation/quarantine of close contacts will be directed by the WCHD. If the sibling was not a close contact, then they would not quarantine. However, if the student/sibling lives in the same household with the individual who is infected they are considered a close contact and would quarantine.

Transportation:

Q: Do you have any information about bus routes or times? When will we know the staggered drop-off times assigned to our children?

A: Routes and times will be established from the selection form data and will be provided to parents as soon as possible.

Q: Will there be transportation on the first day of school?

A: Yes.

Q: Will we be able to do both AM Kids Care and bus for morning transportation?

A: Kids Care enrollment will be taken care of separately from the selection form.

Consistency for your child to the extent that it is possible for your family is key. If you need a bus on any day, AM or PM. Please select "bus" on the selection form.

Q: Will he be able to have AM transportation as needed, but PM transportation daily?

A: Consistency for your child to the extent that it is possible for your family is the key. If you need a bus on any day, AM or PM. Please select “bus” on the selection form.

Q: Will the staggered drop off and pick up times allow me to get to both the Ledgewood/Stone Creek campus and Kinnikinnick?

A: Yes.

Q: What will transportation look like, will students have to pre-certify prior to getting on the bus and will families have to notify the school if their child is sick and will not be getting picked up?

A: All bus riders and drivers must wear a mask at all times. Each bus route is limited to 50 individuals and students will be assigned seating charts to allow for as much social distancing as possible. Family members will sit together. Parents are required to complete and submit the student symptom form via electronic link before the student leaves their home each morning and before boarding the school bus. Symptoms will not be verified prior to boarding the bus, and temperatures will be taken within the first 15 minutes of school. Parents are not required to notify the school for transportation absences. However, they are required to notify the attendance office to report any daily absence as has been required in previous years.

Food Service

Q: Will there be a lunch menu so families know what they are paying for in advance?

A: Yes, lunch menus will be provided as has been done in previous years.

Q: Lunch will be in the classroom, how will lunch service be provided? Will it follow a similar menu as last year?

A: Lunches will be a grab-n-go style. More information can be found [here](#).

In- Person Learning

Q: How large will class sizes be?

A: You can expect class sizes to remain consistent with previous years, with a possible decrease in physical numbers due to the remote learning option.

Q: Will we get penalized by the state/school/truancy if we choose to do in-person instruction, but don't send the child to school every single day?

A: Students who are not in class will be marked as absent and will be contacted for the reason for the absence. The school will continue to monitor absences for truancy/ lack of engagement in the learning environment and report and refer absences to the regional and state agencies.

Q: Will recess include the ability for physical activity? Will recess be outside (weather permitting) with no playground and no sports equipment?

A: Yes, physical distancing between cohorts will be established. In both learning environments, creativity and imagination will be encouraged. Students will also take "brain breaks" throughout the day for movement and relaxation. When weather permits, outside instruction, breaks, and PE will be encouraged. Recess will be outside as weather permits.

Q: Will there be art work hanging in the halls and classroom to encourage and promote creativity?

A: The classrooms and hallways will have less on the walls this year for proper sanitation and disinfection.

Q: For the middle school, I am assuming that kids are still changing classes with their cohort. What is being done to sanitize in between cohorts since desks will be shared?

Classrooms will be disinfected nightly. Prior to dismissal, students will wipe down the desk supervised by the teacher. Upon arrival in the 2nd period, students will wipe down the desk prior to sitting down, supervised by the teacher.

Q: If students are absent, how will they make up instruction or assignments?

A: Students and parents are required to follow up with the class teacher per past practice. Contact the teacher in the event that an extended illness requires an alternative plan.

Q: At RMS, will the kids have to stay in one classroom?

A: Students will have an organized staggered rotation to move to their next class period

Q: Will there be a PE uniform?

A: PE uniforms and the RMS locker rooms will not be utilized. Students need to dress in clothes and footwear that allow them to participate fully in PE and follow the District's dress code policy which can be reviewed in the Student Handbook.

Remote Learning 2.0

Q: If I choose remote learning will my children's teacher be a teacher from that specific grade level or will it just be a teacher within the district?

A: Students will be assigned a grade level teacher (i.e., 2nd grade students will be assigned a 2nd grade teacher).

Q: Will the remote teacher also be teaching a classroom of "in-class" students?

A: Remote teachers will be responsible for their classroom of virtual students. *In an emergency situation any staff member will be required to assist any learner.

Q: Will remote learning be supported with local teachers and involve synchronous learning opportunities?

A: Yes.

Q: Will interventions (reading, speech, special education, therapies) be offered to remote learners?

A: Yes.

Q: If my child is remote, can they elect band?

Yes, electives will have both virtual and in-person classes.

Q: Do the 5 hours of instruction need to take place during the exact school hours?

A: Much like in-person school, instruction and support will take place during school hours. We will be scaffolding our student's learning so that the student can be functional in the classroom with limited parent/caregiver support.

Q: It states that there will be a minimum of 5 hours of instruction time per day. Does this mean 5 hours of screen time or 5 hours of activity (blend of non-screen and screen activities).

A: The Illinois State Board of Education strongly recommends that students receive at least 2.5 hours per day of synchronous learning with real-time instruction and live interaction between students and their teachers take place. Students are to be logging in to real-time instruction and actively participating with the classroom teacher during the school day. This method is called synchronous learning. The technology is the conduit between the teacher and the student and will be an integral part of the remote learning environment. The school day will also include independent learning, social emotional curriculum and electives for a total of 5 hours.

However, this does not mean that a student will always be viewing the screen. A blend of non- screen and screen activities will be utilized as age appropriate. For example, learning letter formation and handwriting will take on traditional formats. The actual length of time per subject area will be determined by the grade level teacher and communicated accordingly.

Q: If we elect remote learning and the internet doesn't work, therefore resulting in the loss of instruction time, how is that handled? In turn, how does that translate to the grading policy?

A: Any remote learner not present via technology will be considered absent for the class period. Students electing remote learning would be required to follow up with the class teacher as they would if they were attending in-person and missed the in-person instruction.

Q: If a student does not log in to the scheduled Google Meet, will they be counted as absent?

A: Yes, the student is considered absent and this will be reported. Remote students will have the same attendance procedures as in-person students.

Q: Will honors courses or coursework be available for remote learners?

A: Yes

Q: What is the plan to support and ensure social development and social interaction for students who are remote?

A: All students will participate in Second Step, a social emotional curriculum. Classroom community building will be a priority focus for all teachers. Students will converse, listen, collaborate and work with their classmates and teacher throughout their school day.

Q: We have a small group of 4 kids in the same class that we are considering doing the e-learning with together at our home to maintain socialization, but limit exposure. Is it possible for us to request that they have the same teachers so we can project the virtual class onto a bigger screen for all of them at one time to make it more like a regular classroom?

A: Please notify the building principal.

General

Q: Are the fees the same whether I choose to send my students to in person learning or e-learning? What is the deadline for fees to be paid? When do I find out if my fee waiver has been approved?

A: Registration fees will be the same for in-person or remote learning. Registration fees are due by August 28th. The approval process for fee waivers will be completed in August and families notified.

Q: Will the school supply list be updated?

A: Teachers have been asked to review the supply lists and submit any updates. Supply list will be posted on August 7th.

Q: Can I choose a different learning environment for each of my children?

A: Yes. Please enter a Selection form for each child.

Q: Is there currently a plan in the works on how the transition will look if things are shut down again? Let's say for instance that kids go to school on a Wednesday and get shut down on a Thursday.

A: Yes, the District is prepared to pivot to a variety of circumstances and will communicate utilizing School Messenger by phone, email and text.

Q: What is the plan for letting the kids get energy out - such as recess, movement breaks, etc.?

A: Physical distancing between cohorts will be required at school. In both learning environments, creativity and imagination will be encouraged. Students will also take "brain breaks" throughout the day for movement and relaxation.

Q: Are the children going to be required to carry textbooks in their backpacks along with folders, notebooks, pencil box etc? Secondly, are the clear/mesh backpacks sturdy to last all year? Where do you get one?

A: Students in 6-8th grade are required to have a clear or mesh backpack for safety reasons. Students in grades PK-5 will use their in class lockers. They may carry any type of backpack but maintaining a product that can be cleaned should be a priority.

Since we are a 1:1 technology device district, most of our textbooks are online and we are working with the teachers on decreasing the amount of supplies for families to buy and students to carry.

Amazon has both clear and mesh backpacks for RMS grades 6-8th.

Q: If you choose remote, can you later change to in-person, or vice versa? Or, are we stuck with the decision we make now for the entire school year?

A: Any family that chooses to enroll in the all Remote Learning 2.0 option are asked to do so for the entire grading period: trimesters (Grades PK-3) or quarterly (Grades 4-8).

Q: When can I enroll in Kids Care?

A: Parents will be notified soon of Kids Care enrollment procedures.

Q: What does this mean? “Students who later opt out of their original choice of learning environments may be assigned to a different classroom teacher/classmates.”

A: A student that chooses a remote option and at the quarter opts for in-person learning will not be assigned to the same teacher and vice versa.

Q: When will Chromebooks and learning resources for remote learners be picked up?

A: TBD

