

June 12, 2020



Dear RCA Family:

First, we are deeply grateful for each of you and your partnership with us over the last quarter of the '19-20 school year. As a school family, this pandemic and the distance learning model that it necessitated showed us how important the personal, social connection provided face-to-face in the classroom with teachers and peers is to a vibrant, effective learning experience. While the COVID-19 situation is still fluid and guidelines/recommendations seem to change daily, we know you are eager for details about how school will operate in the fall. With the goal of preserving the academic day on campus, as well as keeping the health and safety of our students and staff top priority, what follows is RCA's plan for starting school in August (on the 7th as regularly scheduled).

As you read, please keep in mind that these plans may have to be adjusted based on circumstances yet unknown. As always, we will continue to monitor the situation closely, at both the national and local levels. We will make decisions based on the most current information that applies to our local community and follow health recommendations to the extent they are feasible with our population and facilities.

There are three main scenarios for which we are planning. Our faculty and staff will continue to be trained and ready to pivot quickly to successfully implement the plan to best preserve teaching and learning amidst unusual circumstances.

If your child or someone in your family is immunocompromised and needs to take extra precautions against possible exposure, please let us know, and we are happy to build a distance learning plan.

SCHOOL DAY & HEALTH PRECAUTIONS PLANS

1) BEGINNING IN AUGUST (remaining unless COVID-19 situation dictates otherwise)

- **OPERATION:** School will be in session at full capacity and regular hours.
- **HEALTH CHECKS & HYGIENE PRACTICES for Students & Staff:**
 - *We ask every family's commitment to consistently follow these guidelines.
 - **Health Checks:** best practice is to complete your own health checks (temperature, cough, etc.) daily before entering school.
 - Anyone with 100.4 or higher temperature will be required to return home.
 - **Wash hands** regularly with soap & water; hand sanitizing stations will also be placed throughout the campus for ease of access.
 - **Face Masks:** Since there are still about 8 weeks before school begins, we are not making a decision yet regarding a requirement for students/staff to wear masks. We do take this seriously, but we do not want to establish a requirement this far in advance that may change based on data available later in the summer. Regardless of the decision, all students/staff may wear a mask if they prefer.
- **BUILDING SANITIZATION:** Prior to school beginning, the entire campus (including buses & playground) will be treated with a chemical certified to kill COVID; then additionally, the campus will be treated with "Super Virus Shield" which disinfects for 90 days after application (see attached flyer for more details about this antimicrobial surface protector); cleaning and sanitizing procedures throughout the day by staff and each night by our janitorial staff.
- **SOCIAL DISTANCING** as is practically feasible:
 - Distancing of students and desks
 - Limiting movement between classrooms and other campus spaces

- Suspending non-essential parent/special guest visits/events

2) IF there is a spike in COVID-19 after August through Thanksgiving Break

- All of the health/hygiene practices, building sanitation, and social distancing measures listed above will continue to be implemented. The operation of the school day will be as follows based on grade divisions:
 - **Elementary Students:** Due to their age and need for constant supervision, elementary students will continue full-time on campus with in-person instruction, with classes spread across our facilities so as to limit the number of students in one building.
 - **Middle & High School Students:** Grades 7-12 will attend classes on a staggered schedule that will allow for fewer students on campus at the same time. We will utilize a blended learning approach with both synchronous and asynchronous instruction occurring on campus and virtually. Core classes of math, science, and English will be given priority for synchronous instruction in-person and via required live Zoom classes. Our plan is to provide our MS/HS students with a device for school and home use.

3) IF there is a spike in COVID-19 after Thanksgiving Break through January 15

*This third model may be adjusted and applied to other extended periods of time such as Spring Break.

- RCA would be closed for the week of Thanksgiving as planned (Nov. 23-27) and remain closed through January 15. There would be no distance learning during this closure.
- RCA would provide child-care at no cost to families who need it for the regularly scheduled school days.
- To make up the instructional days lost in the closure, RCA would remove M.L.K., President's, and Easter Monday holidays, as well as the scheduled half-days in May, and extend the school year through June 11.

Contingency plans, of course, are not certainties. The three scenarios and plans outlined above may be adjusted based on the reality of the situation if the time comes. However, what we hope you read in this plan is our commitment to a year of responsive teaching and learning in the environment that is best advised for individual or community health and safety, while honoring your investment in your child's education at RCA.

Even with all precautions, we cannot eliminate all risk. Most of the guidance schools receive, even from the CDC, comes as advice that may not be feasible or practical in all circumstances. Parents should be aware of the inherent risk of being anywhere outside of the home during a pandemic. It is the school's responsibility to provide all reasonable precautions and to inform each family of what to expect and their responsibilities. RCA has carefully determined what will work best for our population and facilities. Schools, nevertheless, have been advised to ask parents to sign an informed consent agreement that you will receive later this summer. This added action highlights each family's responsibility to be informed by their own circumstances and conscience as they send their children to school.

We pray we are able to all remain on campus together and continue learning in community with each other. We look forward to welcoming your children back to school in August!

Sincerely,



Chip Blanchard & Rachael Burnett
RCA Administration