



**ROANOKE
COUNTY**
Public Schools

$$\begin{array}{r} \textcircled{1} \quad 14 \\ \times 29 \\ \hline 126 \\ + 280 \\ \hline 406 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 123 \textcircled{2} \\ \times 77 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$\textcircled{3}$

$$\begin{array}{r} 327 \\ \times 14 \\ \hline 1308 \\ + 3270 \\ \hline 4578 \end{array}$$

Return to School
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



Welcome Back!

Welcome to the start of the 2020-2021 school year! I want to first express my appreciation to our parents for their patience and understanding as we have worked to prepare for a school year unlike no other. We are working hard to move forward with providing instruction to our students, whether they are learning in the classroom or learning online at home. I'm very proud of the hard work of our teachers, administrators and support staff who have gone above and beyond to make sure our students will receive a quality education regardless of where that education takes place.

As we develop and implement our return to school plan, we remain committed to following the guidance and recommendations of public health experts. We have put strong mitigations measures into place. We will **protect and respect** each other by wearing masks. You'll see this message throughout our schools and we're serious about it.



Dr. Ken Nicely
SUPERINTENDENT

While cases in Roanoke County currently have leveled off, the local health department is recommending that we use active daily screenings rather than passive ones because cases could rise again. We are heeding that advice, and, as challenging as it will be to do so, we will do **temperature checks** of students and staff every morning. This is an extra layer of mitigation beyond the key measures of **practicing six feet physical distancing** and **requiring face coverings** in most situations (only exception is when we are in a stable six-foot zone away from others). Our cleaning staffs also have clear directions and expectations about daily disinfecting and cleaning in schools and on buses. Positive airflow (influx of outdoor air) has been increased with the HVAC systems in our buildings.

There is no such thing as zero risk, and we cannot pretend otherwise. Taken together, though, these are the measures and circumstances that provide a pathway to re-open with the blended/hybrid plan and give us the best chance of staying open. To make this work, we desperately need the support and cooperation of the community in wearing face coverings and staying home when sick.

Included in this packet is important information and a daily health screening checklist. We ask that parents please **review this checklist every day** before sending their children to school. **If a child is sick**, showing symptoms, or has been exposed to someone with COVID-19, it is imperative that you **keep your child home**. This year, there are no perfect attendance awards. Attendance will be very different from previous years and we need parents to keep their child home if he or she child is sick.

The best way we will move beyond this pandemic is to remain flexible and determine to each do our part. There will be changes to the school schedule. There will be times when some students are asked to stay home. There may be times when schools are closed. This will be a challenging year, but we can succeed if we work together. Thank you for your support.



Return to School Plan Summary

UPDATED: The return to school plan is designed to expand or contract as numbers and conditions change and will be assessed frequently. The plan starts with students in kindergarten through third grade to attend schools in-person five days a week. Students in fourth grade through twelfth grade will attend school in-person two days a week and will receive online instruction three days a week. Students also can choose 100% remote instruction. For more on remote instruction, please go to www.rcps.us/RCPSOnline.

We understand and accept that this is not the ideal way for our students to learn. However, given a choice between having our youngest and least independent students learn in school five days and having them only attend two days per week during these most formative years, the better choice for most students is to have them in school. Our plan is expandable so that if more students choose 100% online instruction, or if conditions change, we can add more students according to capacity.

Students in kindergarten through third grade will attend school in-person five days a week with reduced class sizes and spread out classroom spaces. As a result, some areas of the school, such as libraries and cafeterias have been temporarily converted into classroom spaces.

Students in grades four through twelve will be split into two groups and will attend school in-person two days a week in spread out classroom spaces. Students in the same household will be on the same schedule as much as is possible. These students will receive online instruction three days a week on the following schedule:

Mondays: Group 1 (A Day) in-person instruction, Group 2 online instruction

Tuesdays: Group 2 (A Day) in-person instruction, Group 1 online instruction

Wednesday: Group 1 and Group 2 online instruction

Thursdays: Group 1 (B Day) in-person instruction, Group 2 online instruction

Fridays: Group 2 (B Day) in-person instruction, Group 1 online instruction.

(Note: the A/B day schedule only applies to middle and high schools).

By offering one day of in-person instruction followed by two days of online learning, students are able to stay better connect to the school and have meals available to take home. Further, according to the health department, this schedule allows for better contact tracing should there be a COVID-19 case in a school.

As part of this plan, **students will be required to wear face coverings in school at all times** when six-foot physical distancing cannot be maintained, such as transition times, before and after school, working individually with staff, doing group work or school bus rides.





2020 - 2021 School Calendar

There are three weeks in the 2020-2021 school calendar that have been adjusted due to established holidays.

ROANOKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2020-2021 Blended Academic Calendar



September 7th: School Closed for Labor Day

- Group 1 who would normally attend school on Monday, September 7th will attend Wednesday, September 9th and Thursday, September 10th.
- Group 2 will attend their normal days Tuesday, September 8th and Friday, September 11th

July '20							August '20							September '20						
Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
			1	2	3	4							1			1	2	3	4	5
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
							30	31												
							10-14 Teacher Workday (All) 17-21 Teacher Workday (All) 24 First Day of School (Instruction Assistants 12,13,19,20,21)							7 Schools Closed: Labor Day 21 Interim Midpoint 28 Interim Reports Sent Home						

October '20							November '20							December '20													
Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat							
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5							
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12							
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19							
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26							
25	26	27	28	29	30		29	30						27	28	29	30	31									
							20 End of 1st Grading Period 21 Teacher Workday* 30 Report Cards Sent Home							2 Schools Closed: ALL Employees Off 3 Schools Closed: Election Day* 24 Interim Midpoint 26-27 Schools Closed: Thanksgiving Holiday *Flexible conferences and all employees off except 12 mo							1 Interim Reports Sent Home 21-31 School Closed: Winter Break						

UPDATE:

November 2nd & 3rd: School Closed

- Wednesday, Nov. 4 will follow the regular Wednesday schedule (this is a change from a previously published calendar).

January '21							February '21							March '21						
Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
				1	2	3		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31				28	29	30	31			
31																				
1 Schools Closed: Winter Break 12 End of 2nd Grading Period 13 Teacher Workday* 18 Schools Closed ML King Day 22 Report Cards Sent Home *All employees work from home except 12 mo							10 Schools Closed: Staff Development* 10 Kindergarten Registration 18 Interim Midpoint 25 Interim Reports Sent Home *Includes 2 hours PD and flexible conferences *All employees off except 12 month							23 End of 3rd Grading Period 24 Teacher Workday* 29-31 School Closed: Spring Break *All employees work from home except 12 mo						

January 18th: School Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

- Group 1 who would normally attend school on Monday, January 18th will attend Wednesday, January 20th and Thursday, January 21st.
- Group 2 will attend their normal days Tuesday, January 19th and Friday, January 22nd.

April '21							May '21							June '21						
Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
				1	2	3							1			1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
							30	31												
1-2 Schools Closed: Spring Break 9 Report Cards Sent Home 30 Interim Midpoint							7 Interim Reports Sent Home 25-26 Graduation Ceremonies (3:00-5:30) 28 End of Second Semester 28 Early Dismissal for PK-2nd (12:25) 28 Last Student Day 29 Teacher Workday* *All employees work from home except 12 month							1 Flexible Teacher Workday Option *Teachers can work May 29 or June 1						

*SCHEDULE FOR MAKE-UP DAYS, IF NEEDED

- Banked Day
- Banked Day
- Banked Day
- Banked Day
- Banked Day
- February 10*
- March 24
- May 24* (Teacher workday to move to May 27th)
- Not required
- Add time to school day, if needed

KEY	Student Day	Non-School Day	Teacher Workday
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Please see www.rcps.us for a larger printable version



Maintaining Physical Distancing

UPDATE: Preschool - 3rd grade

Pre-K through 3rd grade classrooms will be modified so that each desk or student work station is six feet apart. Plexiglas partitions may be used between each student, as the work station allows, as an additional mitigation strategy. All staff and students pre-K through 3rd grade will wear face coverings at all times except during mask breaks when students and staff are at their work stations six feet apart. Teachers and students must wear masks especially when working one-on-one or in small groups. Lunch will be eaten in the classrooms and encore teachers will come to each room rather than the students moving classrooms, with the exception of physical education.

4th - 5th grades

Grades 4-5 classrooms will be modified so that each desk or student work station will be six feet apart. All staff and students in grades 4-5 will wear face coverings at all times except during mask breaks when students and staff are at their work stations six feet apart. Teachers and students must wear masks especially when working one-on-one or in small groups. Lunch will be eaten in the classrooms and encore teachers will come to each room rather than the students moving classrooms, with the exception of physical education.

Middle and high schools

Grades 6-12 classrooms will be modified so that each desk or student work station will be 6 feet apart. All staff and students grades 6-12 will wear face coverings at all times except during mask breaks when students and staff are at their work stations six feet apart. Teachers and students must wear masks especially when working one-on-one or in small groups. Lunch will be eaten in the classrooms.

School buses

Due to space constraints, all students will be **required to wear facial coverings at all times** while riding the school bus. Students who have registered to ride the bus will be issued a bus pass. **Students without a bus pass will not be permitted to ride the bus.** Parents can add or change bus transportation at www.rcps.us/transportation, however that change will not go into effect until approved depending on available space.

CHECK YOUR



Maintain at least 6-foot physical distancing when possible.

Wear facial coverings when you can't maintain physical distancing of at least 6 feet.



Symptoms of COVID-19

Screening, monitoring and testing are essential components of limiting the spread of COVID-19. An important part of keeping our schools safe is actively encouraging sick staff and students to stay home if they are ill and emphasizing to all the importance of knowing the symptoms of COVID-19.

People with these symptoms or combinations of these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- **Cough**
- **Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing**
- **Fever (the CDC defines a fever as having a temperature of 100.4°F or greater, or when one feels warm to the touch, or gives a history of feeling feverish)**
- **Chills**
- **Muscle pain**
- **Sore throat**
- **New loss of taste or smell**
- **Other less common symptoms have been reported, including gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.**

COVID-19 Screening Questions

Parents should assess each child for symptoms of COVID-19 **each day before arrival to school.**

YES or NO: since the last day in the building, has my child had any of the following:

- A new fever (100.4F or higher) or a sense of having a fever since you were last in school?
- A new cough or breathing difficulty that cannot be attributed to another health condition?
- Chills that cannot be attributed to another health condition?
- A new sore throat that cannot be attributed to another health condition?
- New muscle aches (myalgia) that cannot be attributed to another health condition or specific activity (such as physical exercise)?
- Has the child been exposed to anyone who tested positive or suspective positive for Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the past 14 days? An exposure is defined as physical contacts within six feet for at least 15 minutes.

If an individual answers YES to any of the screening questions before arriving, he or she should stay home and not enter the building.

The parent needs to call the school to report if they respond YES to any of the questions above. The school nurse will call the parent back to walk the parent through an additional assessment and will provide guidance based on VDH recommendations. If an individual reports COVID-19 symptoms upon arrival, the school will activate the emergency protocol for COVID-19. **Parents must promptly pick their child or arrange for pickup if signs or symptoms of illness are present.** If a student becomes symptomatic at school, they will be moved to an isolation space until they are picked up from school. **Students that become symptomatic at school will not be able to ride the bus home.**

Parents are asked to contact the school when your child will not be attending school. The school nurse is the contact person for all COVID-19 questions regarding a sick child or family member.

Student absenteeism will be monitored at each school. Student attendance will be monitored based on student engagement and participation and is dependent upon the form of instruction. Students attending school two days a week or five days a week will be marked absent on days they are not in attendance for those days. Parents are to call the school and provide excuses for each absence. Online students will be required to engage in instruction as required by the teacher to be considered present. Parents will be contacted by the teacher if a student is not meeting the student engagement and participation requirements for attendance.

Promoting Behaviors that Reduce Spread

Review and practice proper hand washing techniques at home, especially before and after eating, sneezing, coughing, and adjusting a face cover.

Wash your hands frequently

Washing your hands is easy, and it's one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of germs. Clean hands can stop germs from spread from one person to another and throughout an entire community - from your home and workplace to schools, childcare facilities and hospitals. Here are five simple steps to washing your hands properly:

1. **WET** your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap and apply soap.
2. **LATHER** your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
3. **SCRUB** your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the complete "Happy Birthday" song to yourself (or in your head) twice.
4. **RINSE** your hands well under clean, running water.
5. **DRY** your hands using a clean towel or air dry.



Use hand sanitizer when you are unable to wash your hands with soap and water

Washing hands with soap and water is the best way to get rid of germs in most situations. If soap and water are not readily available, you can use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. You can tell if the sanitizer contains at least 60% alcohol by looking at the product label.

Cover your nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing

Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth

Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth.

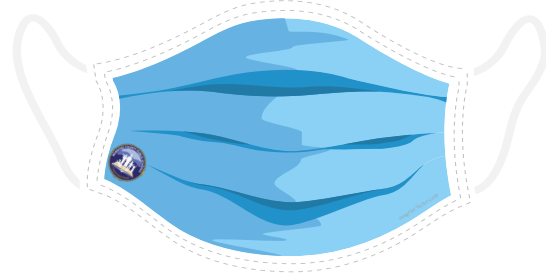


Facial coverings are required

Facial coverings for both students and staff are most essential in times when physical distancing is difficult. In order to protect and respect the right of everyone in the building to have less risk of exposure, common expectations for the use of face coverings are needed. All students and staff will be provided a face covering or they may wear one of their choosing that covers the mouth and nose.



Protect and Respect



All students and staff are required to wear face coverings at school at all times

except when seated 6 feet apart at individual work stations. Facial coverings also are required at all times while riding on school buses. Examples of when face coverings are required include entering and exiting the school building, walking in the hallway, movement to other rooms, movement within the classroom that requires a student to be out of his/her seat. Use during recess will depend on the activity. When students are physically active such as in physical education class, they do not have to wear a mask, but should increase physical distancing.

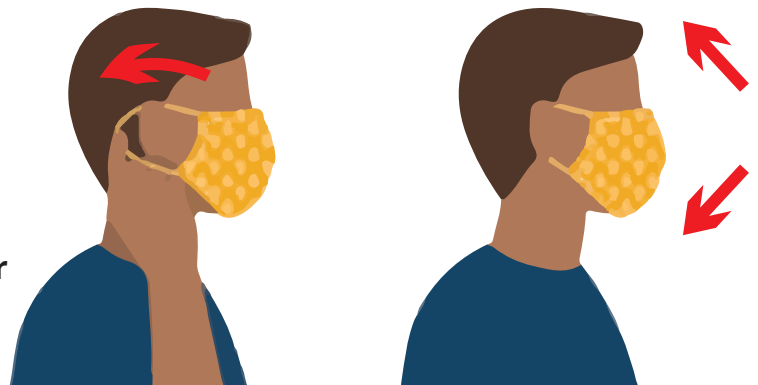
Students who do not wear a face covering will be prompted to follow the requirement and if it becomes a problem the parent will be contacted. If the problem persists, after all efforts made by the school and the parent, the student may be required to transition to 100% remote learning. Students with medical documentation stating they can't wear a face covering will be referred to the school nurse who will design a health plan.

- Students and staff should have their face covering with them when not in use.
- Disposable face coverings will be available on each school bus and in the front office of each school for those who lose or misplace theirs.
- Face shields are allowable, but a face covering is still required under the shield.
- Have multiple cloth face coverings, so you can wash them daily and have back-ups ready.

How to wear cloth face coverings

Wear your face covering correctly

- Wash your hands before putting on face covering
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face
- Make sure you can breathe easily.



Choose a face covering that:

- Fits snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- Completely covers the nose and mouth
- Is secured with ties or ear loops
- Includes multiple layers of fabric
- Allows for breathing without restriction
- Can be washed and machine dried without damage or change to shape

Some helpful tips:

- Label your child's cloth face covering clearly in a permanent marker so that they are not confused with those of other children.
- Practice with your child putting on and taking off cloth face coverings without touching the cloth.
- Explain the importance of wearing a cloth face covering and how it protects other people from getting sick.
- Consider providing your child with a container (e.g., labeled resealable bag) to bring to school to store their cloth face coverings when not wearing it (e.g., when eating).
- If your child is riding a school bus, plan for your child to wear a cloth face covering on the bus and talk to your child about the importance of following bus rules and any spaced seating rules.

Wear a face covering to protect others

- **Wear a face covering that covers your nose and mouth to help protect others in case you're infected with COVID-19 but don't have symptoms.**
- **Wear a face covering in public settings when around people who don't live in your household, especially when it may be difficult for you to stay six feet apart.**
- **Wear a face covering correctly for maximum protection.**
- **Don't put the face covering around your neck or up on your forehead.**
- **Don't touch the face coverings, and, if you do, wash your hands or use hand sanitizer to disinfect.**



Some additional reminders:

- Students may use water fountains to fill individual water bottles.
- Students should not share water bottles, school supplies, devices, books or other items.
- Nonessential visitors will not be allowed to enter school buildings.
- No lunch deliveries will be accepted from parents or outside providers and visitors will not be allowed to each lunch with students.
- School and LIFE Counselors are available for students and their families through phone conferencing, virtual meetings, and face to face meetings by appointment adhering to social distancing requirements. Please contact the School Counseling Department at your child's school.



Nutrition Information

Anyone 18 and under is eligible for FREE school meals

UPDATE! The federal government has extended the free meals for kids program through December 31, 2020 (unless further extended), or until federal funding is exhausted. This means all children 18 and under can receive free meals from schools.

Pick-Up Meals

- Parents are encouraged to enroll in the Pick-Up meal program online at www.rcps.us/nutrition to guarantee a meal.
- Meals offered include 1 breakfast entrée and 1 lunch entrée (PBJ sandwich or deli sandwich), fruit, vegetables, and milk.
- RCPS Hybrid students will pickup meals to take home at dismissal for each in-school day.
- Parents of RCPS 100% Online and parents of non-RCPS students can pick up meals on Wednesday mornings at the times listed below*.

In-School Meals

- Meals offered Monday through Friday for Grades PK-3*.
- Meals offered during in-school days for Group 1 & Group 2 students.
- 1 breakfast entrée offered daily.
- 1 hot and 1 cold lunch entrée option, fruit, vegetables, and milk offered daily.
- Meals will be eaten in the classroom.

Please see the posted menu for daily meal options.

Wednesday meal pick-up times:

Elementary Schools: 9 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Middle Schools: 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

High Schools: 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Meals must be promptly refrigerated.

If meals are not picked up for three consecutive days, the student will be removed from the reservation list. Any remaining funds will remain on the student's account. Parents can request a refund at www.rcps.us/nutrition.

* - except on days when schools are closed - please see the school calendar at www.rcps.us.

**Parents can apply for free & reduced meals at www.rcps.us.
Paper applications will be available at schools.**



Protect and Respect

Throughout this pandemic, we want to make sure we are protecting and respecting one another. There will be times where students may be absent from school. Just because a student is not in school, that does not mean a student has contracted COVID-19. There could be many reasons a student is absent from school. **We need to be respectful of either other's privacy and not start or spread rumors.**

Roanoke County Public Schools believes in creating and promoting a culture of kindness in our schools - both in class and online. This is part of our PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) program to encourage students and staff to follow three main goals:

Be Safe

Be Respectful

Be Responsible

We encourage students to speak up to report bullying and other concerns. SpeakUp is a program where students can send a confidential email, text or phone call to share concerns about a classmate or school safety. Students can send an email to **speakup@student.rcps.us**, or they can call or text 540-595-0706. All reports are anonymous and will be quickly acted upon. Once a report is sent, school administrators are notified and resources can be deployed depending on the nature of the report.

We are encouraging students to use the SpeakUp program if they are concerned about a student who is being bullied (or is bullying others), if a student is expressing suicidal thoughts, threats of violence, use of weapons, students experiencing crisis or traumatic situations, or other urgent situations. Every report is taken very seriously.

SPEAK UP

Share concerns about
your classmates or
school safety.



EMAIL, CALL OR TEXT

speakup@student.rcps.us

540-595-0706

EASILY REPORT:

- + Bullying
- + Threats of violence
- + Planned fights
- + Weapons in school
- + Students in crisis
- + Other urgent situations





Return to School

We encourage parents to go to our special Return to School website for additional information about our health plan, instruction plan, FAQ's and other information.

www.rcps.us/returntoschool

SMART **2** START
LEARNING from DAY ONE

Roanoke County Public Schools partnering with the United Way, non-profits, and the faith based community to ensure families have a safe place for their children to receive academic support when they are not in school. Applications are now being accepted for children birth through 6th grade. You may qualify for financial assistance and we want to be sure to connect you to those resources. For more information and to apply please go to www.smart2start.org.

www.smart2start.org

Job Opportunities

The United Way partners have identified space for additional program sites and are now actively hiring additional staff. These jobs not only provide a valuable service to the community, they are a great opportunity for temporary income. For more information please contact Virginia Career Works at 540-613-8220, or non-profit partners YMCA (<https://ymcavbr.org/main/virtual-job-fair/>) or Boys and Girls Clubs (<https://www.bgcswwa.org/get-involved/employment/>).