



*Excellence in Education*  
**ROCKVILLE CENTRE SCHOOLS**

Board of Education • 128 Shepherd Street • Rockville Centre • New York 11570

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June Chang, Superintendent of Schools

August 6, 2020

Dear Rockville Centre Community,

We appreciate our community's engagement, and the valuable thoughts and suggestions from everyone involved with Rockville Centre Schools. Please know we are listening, and we recognize your concerns during these challenging times. We are all working together and tackling difficult decisions while waiting for further directives from the State.

As we await the final determination on reopening from the State, we have updates on desk guards, school schedules, technology, curriculum, and professional development for staff focused on reopening during a pandemic.

### **Updates:**

#### **K-5 Desk Guards**

We're in the process of procuring desk guards that could allow all K-5 students to return full-time. We have identified a product that both meets State education requirements and social distancing guidelines. Additionally, we know there are classrooms using tables instead of desks. In these instances, we plan to purchase additional desks to replace tables, and hope that they will arrive in time for the first day of school.

#### **School Schedules**

As we look at reopening our schools, we want to be mindful of the social emotional well-being and mental health of our students. Thus, we are looking to develop a tentative return schedule at the elementary level, that starts with a hybrid schedule for a short period of time (potentially the first week) before transitioning to a full in-person model. As always, our plans are subject to change based on potential new information and State requirements, however, at the bottom of this letter, please access the link to the current sample schedules for K-5 and Middle School.

For in-person or hybrid we would follow the regular bell schedule at South Side Middle School but the high school team is looking to modify its bell schedule to stagger the number of students in the hallway, and thus is still a work-in-progress.

#### **Nursing Spaces**

The District Medical Officer has worked with building Principals and Central Administrators to identify specific areas in each building for day-to-day nursing care, isolation areas in the event of missing or questionable medical screening, and nebulizer treatments. Additional resources including, contactless thermometers, gloves, masks, gowns, hand sanitizer, and sani-cloths have been ordered to screen students, and provide personal protective equipment.

### **Mental Health Support and Social Emotional Learning**

The District subcommittee for mental health support and social emotional learning has identified resources to determine the needs of our students and staff as they return to the school buildings. Social emotional needs surveys will be administered to parents, staff and students prior to reentry. Resources for parents and staff to assist students transition back to school will be made available before the opening of school. The existing social emotional learning curriculum has been enhanced to include relevant topics related to resilience, addressing uncertainty, and adjusting to potential changes in the instructional setting.

### **Superintendent Conference Days for Professional Development and Pandemic Training**

We're adding two (2) superintendent conference days to the start of our calendar, yielding three (3) days of preparation and professional development for teachers before students enter schools. To offset one of the additional training days, the District will be closed on Friday, May 28, 2021 (the Friday before Memorial Day weekend).

### **Kindergarten iPads**

We will be distributing iPads to entering students during our kindergarten screening over the course of the coming weeks, in case a hybrid or remote schedule is adopted. If parents have not received one and are in need of a district-owned device, please email us at

[DeviceRequest@RVCSchools.org](mailto:DeviceRequest@RVCSchools.org).

### **Internet Access:**

Families without internet access who need a district-owned Wi-Fi hotspot can email us at [wifihotspotrequest@rvcschools.org](mailto:wifihotspotrequest@rvcschools.org) Please include your child's name and the school he or she attends in the body of the email.

Thank you for your attention to these details. We will continue working in our committees, and we look forward to sharing information, insights, and updates in our weekly livestreams (dates will be posted and sent in advance when ready). Additionally, we are looking to partner with the PTA for another live-streamed Reopening Forum on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 7pm.

Today, we held a live-streamed update that covered various topics. For your convenience, we have provided a link below so you can view it as well as a link to our survey. We hope this letter finds everyone safe and well, and we look forward to keeping you informed as the reopening process unfolds.

Sincerely,

June Chang  
Superintendent of Rockville Centre Schools

Resources:

[Livestream Update August 6, 2020](#)

[Parent Survey](#)

Sample Schedule Elementary (if we were to be In-Person, Remote or Hybrid)

SSMS Bell Schedule