

Tuesday, August 25th, 2020

Good evening Rockwood families and students,

We have spent the last few months preparing for students to return to school and are looking forward to students arriving on Tuesday, September 1st. This has been a challenging time, but we are anxiously awaiting the return of students! Over the next few days reminders related to returning to school safely will be sent out through School Messenger, on our website, and Facebook page. This information will include updates related to face coverings, hygiene, social distancing, cleaning, daily monitoring attendance, and student drop off and pick up. Again we thank you in advance for your cooperation and can not wait to see students in the building again!

Thank you and have a good evening!

Wednesday, August 26th, 2020 - Face Coverings

Good evening Rockwood families and students,

The Rockwood Area School District will follow the most current Orders issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Governor. *Please note this order applies to students, visitors, District employed staff and contracted employees.

- All students must wear a face covering (cloth mask or face shield) that covers their nose and mouth on District transportation, inside the school, and while outside, when social distancing is not feasible, unless they qualify for an exception as outlined in the order and below.
 - Students are permitted to wear a baseball hat or visor with an “Instashield”, or the like, as a face shield in order to comply with the face covering order.
- The district will have face coverings available for students. Students may choose to wear face coverings they have chosen with their parents independently. Face coverings will be provided if and when a student forgets a covering at home or soils their face covering at school making it incapable of safely being worn.
- The face coverings defined in the order are acceptable for school use. Transparent face coverings provide the opportunity for more visual cues and should be especially considered as an alternative for younger students, students who are deaf and hard of hearing, and their teachers.
 - *Student dress code and student expression policies and procedures will apply to the use of face coverings.*
 - *Students are permitted to wear a hat when they are using a face covering specifically designed for a hat.*
- **Face covering exceptions will follow the face covering order issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Governor. While documentation of the qualifying exception is not required, parents are asked to notify the appropriate building office in writing if their child qualifies for one of the exceptions and will**

not be wearing a face covering to school. A student with an existing IEP or 504 Plan will have the exception appropriately documented in an update to the student's plan.

- Face covering may be removed when:
 - Eating or drinking when spaced at least 6 feet apart.
 - When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.
 - At least 6 feet apart during “face covering breaks” to last no longer than 10 minutes.

Teachers will support, teach, and provide soft verbal reminders to students on how to properly wear a face covering (cover nose and mouth), to maintain hand hygiene when removing the face covering for meals and physical activity, and how to replace and maintain (washing regularly) a cloth face covering.

- Face masks or covering tiered discipline response:
 - Teachers, staff and the administration will remind students to wear face masks or coverings appropriately when in school. Soft reminders and guidance will be supplied to students wearing masks.
 - If a student intentionally misuses or refuses to follow reminders from a teacher, staff member or administrator, the student will receive a discipline referral. Teachers should attempt to address the behavior in class with reminders and direct interventions.
 - Tiered discipline will be used related to face mask or covering issues.
 - ***Discipline referrals will be applied to student behavior, not face coverings/masks.

Face covering breaks will be offered throughout the school day.



Thank you and have a good evening.

Thursday, August 27th, 2020 - Hygiene, Cleaning, Disinfecting, & Social Distancing

Good evening Rockwood families and students,

During the summer months, cleaning and disinfecting of all areas of school buildings, grounds, and buses took place. Disinfecting foggers will be used within all areas of the school buildings and buses. These practices will prepare the school environment for a safe return of students.

Cleaning supplies and equipment have been purchased in large quantities. Cleaning supplies have been approved by the CDC for disinfecting against the COVID 19 virus. Cleaning, disinfecting, and ventilation protocols are implemented daily in the green phase. Increased cleaning, disinfecting, and ventilation protocols are to be implemented between class periods, when feasible.

When Somerset County is in the Green Phase, daily protocols/practices will include evening cleaning and regular disinfecting of all classrooms and common areas used during the school day. Additionally, high traffic areas will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day. When Somerset County is in the

Yellow Phase, cleaning and disinfecting of all classrooms, common areas, and high traffic areas will occur between periods, when feasible. Custodial, teaching, and support staff members will be trained to understand the importance of cleaning, disinfecting, ventilation, and proper hygiene. The training will be provided through the administration, maintenance director, and school nurse. Effectiveness of cleaning, disinfecting, and ventilating will be measured through discussion and observation.

Social Distancing & Safety Protocols

Classrooms and Communal Spaces

- Classrooms will be organized in a manner that increases space between students based on age level/grade level, size of the classroom, and available resources.
 - The teacher will arrange their classroom to maximize social distancing as feasible.
 - Instruction in alternative spaces will be encouraged. This may include larger rooms and outside areas.
- Elementary recess will be held with grade levels being assigned to areas on school grounds.
 - The playground equipment will be disinfected daily.
- Communal spaces such as the cafe, gym, auditorium will be restricted according to grade level and purpose of use.
 - Auditorium use will be restricted in order to comply with social distancing.
 - The cafeteria
 - Elementary cafeteria seating will be arranged by homeroom. Lunch periods will be split into homerooms cohorts. Grade levels will eat in homerooms and cafeteria to support social distancing.

- Students may be required to eat in their homeroom and only enter the cafeteria to receive their lunches.
- Students will be called to line up to receive their lunches in a manner that maximizes social distancing.
- High School cafeteria
 - The students in each lunch period will be divided in half.
 - One group will eat in the cafeteria and the other group will eat in the classroom.
 - Groups eating in the classrooms will be based upon the course the student is enrolled in over their lunch period.
- Elementary - Students will be grouped in classrooms with their homerooms. Teachers will transition to classrooms. students will remain in their homeroom and the teacher will come into the room.
- High School - a new time bell schedule has been developed for students with 3 minutes in between classes.
- The number of touchless water bottle fill stations throughout the building increased. Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles to school. Drinking fountains will be off limits, other than the use of the water bottle fill station.
- Elementary students will have storage spaces and individual items for their use in the classrooms.
- Students will be encouraged to visit their lockers upon arrival, before lunch, and at the end of the day before dismissal. Students will not be permitted to congregate around lockers between periods. Traffic flow in the hallways will be one directional on each side of the hallway with a constant flow of traffic. *7th & 8th grade students will be dismissed a few minutes early at the end of each class period.

Thank you and have a good evening.

Stop the Spread of Germs

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.



Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.



When in public, wear a mask over your nose and mouth.



Do not touch your eyes, nose, and mouth.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

316917C, August 6, 2020 7:39 PM

Friday, August 28th, 2020 -Daily Monitoring & Attendance

Good evening Rockwood families and students,

The information provided below is related to daily monitoring and attendance. Parents and or guardians will be expected to screen their children for COVID 19 symptoms prior to coming to school. If your child is sick or demonstrating symptoms of illness, please do not send them to school.

Daily Monitoring & Attendance

- Parents and guardians will be expected to screen children for symptoms before school each day.
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
- Temperature should be taken each morning by the parent while the child is at home.
 - **Students with temperatures above 100.3 degrees fahrenheit should remain at home. It is important for parents to follow this guidance.** It takes everyone's cooperation to keep children healthy.
 - **Children with symptoms should not be sent on a bus or brought to school.**
- Parents should follow up with the Department of Health and/or a doctor and adhere to the recommendations. If COVID-19 is the reason the child had a temperature, the parents should notify the school nurse and appropriate building office.
- If a student is diagnosed with COVID-19, parents are encouraged to report this information to the appropriate school office and nurse and the Department of Health.
- Students should not return to school until the criteria to discontinue home isolation are met, in consultation with Pennsylvania Department of Health and/or healthcare providers. Written documentation is expected upon return.
- If a student exhibits observable signs and symptoms of COVID 19 while in school they will be referred to the school nurse or Health Room Aide in a confidential manner. The school nurse will determine if a student needs to be quarantined.
 - Referrals can be made by any staff member.
 - The School Nurse will evaluate the child's health and make an appropriate determination.

- If the child is thought to be exhibiting symptoms, the child will be quarantined until the parent or guardian can pick them up.
 - Parents will pick their child up at the nurses office. Parents will need to park in the elementary parking lot and meet the school nurse or health room aide at the double doors outside of the H.S. Cafeteria.
- The PA Department of Health recommends, if you have traveled, or plan to travel, to an area where there are high amounts of COVID 19 cases, it is recommended that you stay at home for 14 days upon return to Pennsylvania. It is the responsibility of the parent to determine if the student should self-quarantine. Parents should be monitoring their child's symptoms and if they have symptoms they should not send them to school. The student's absences during these circumstances shall be considered excused.
- Students will have flexible attendance policies to complete their make-up work either at home or once returning to school. Parents will contact the building office to make special arrangements for school work. Depending on the length of time the student will be absent, the student or parent may also contact the teacher directly to arrange school work completion.
 - The parent will supply the school with a physician's note stating the length of time the student should be excused from school as well as any special accommodations needed for the child.
 - A plan for the student will be outlined and communicated to the child's teachers and parents.

Thank you and have a good evening.

Know the symptoms of COVID-19, which can include the following:



Symptoms can range from mild to severe illness, and appear 2-14 days after you are exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.

Seek medical care immediately if someone has emergency warning signs of COVID-19.

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

This list is not all possible symptoms. Please call your healthcare provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

316475-A 07/21/2020

Monday, August 31 Parent Drop Off & Pick Up

Good evening Rockwood families and students,

The first day of school is tomorrow, September 1st. Please arrive between 7:45 and 8:05. Remember to follow the new drop off and pick up procedures.

Daily Arrival/Departure & Transportation

The student day will begin at 8:05am and end at 2:51pm. **Please note the dismissal time has been adjusted to an earlier time than prior school years, and traffic patterns have changed.*

Parent Pick up and Drop off

- Students can be dropped off between 7:45 - 8:05 am and picked up at 2:51 pm
- Individuals who are self-quarantining or have been diagnosed with a confirmed or probable case of COVID 19 may not drop off or pick up children from school.
- Morning Arrival
 - Elementary Students will be dropped off at the High School Gym entrance near the Rocket.
 - High School Students will be dropped off at the downstairs science wing door and enter the building through this entrance.
- Afternoon Pick Up
 - Elementary Students will be picked up at the High School Gym entrance near the Rocket.
 - Students will be released to their parents or designated adult when they pull up to the lobby. Parents should not leave their vehicles. Please have an ID ready to present to school staff.
 - High School Students will be picked up along the sidewalk near the science wing door.
 - If your elementary age child is going to be on parent pick-up please send a note the first day as to what days they will be picked up.
- Traffic Flow Change
 - All District parking lots will be restricted during the following times.
 - 7:30-8:30 AM
 - 2:30-3:30 PM
 - Parents will enter and exit school property using the Somerset Ave. entrance during drop off and pick up.
 - Parents enter from Somerset Avenue towards the HS gym during drop off and pick up. Upon dropping off or picking up parents will continue around the rocket and exit back out onto Somerset Ave.
 - Parents shall stay in their vehicle and form a single-file line leading to the H.S. gym entrance after 2:30 pm. Parents should not leave their vehicles. Please have ID ready when picking up Elementary students.
 - ***Please note the school entrance on Somerset Avenue near the athletic fields will become a two way entry and exit for parent pick up and drop off.***

Student Drivers & Staff Parking In Front of High School

- Student drivers & Staff will enter from Bridge Street in the morning and exit onto Bridge Street at dismissal.
- ***Bridge Street will be used as the entrance for student drivers and staff in the morning and as the exit during dismissal.***

Student Arrival on Bus Transportation

- Students arriving by bus prior to 7:30am will report to the appropriate building level cafeteria.
- Students arriving after 7:45
 - Elementary students report to their classroom teacher.
 - Jr./Sr. High School students will report to their first period class.
- District transportation
 - Bus transportation will be provided to all students.
 - Parents will have the option to drive their child to/from school to reduce bus capacity.
 - Two students per seat (maximum if not from the same family), when feasible.
 - Family members are asked to sit together, with a maximum of three family members per seat.
 - Bus drivers and students are required to wear face masks while riding the bus unless they qualify for an exception to the “Face Covering Order” .
 - The buses will be disinfected after the morning and afternoon runs.

Essential Travel and Field Trips:

- Field Trips for the 2020-21 school year will not be scheduled until further notice. Virtual field trips will be considered to enrich the educational experience.

Thank you and have a good evening.