



July 31, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we approach the start of the new school year, I would like to share with you some information regarding the East Rutherford Reopening Plan for the 2020-2021 school year. I encourage all parents/guardians to read this communication to the end to ensure that you receive all information pertinent to the reopening of our district schools.

Our first priority is the health and well-being of our students, faculty and staff. We have built this plan with guidance and recommendations from the New Jersey Department of Education, CDC Guidelines, local and state health officials, Bergen County Association of School Administrators as well as the COVID19 Start-Up Task Force that consisted of various school community stakeholders.

It is our aim to implement rigorous protocols and procedures to minimize risks associated with COVID-19 in every aspect of the school day. Our protocols and procedures are listed in the plan and will be monitored continually taking into account the changing environment and risk levels.

In addition, this plan outlines the students' instructional options offered to all East Rutherford School District students. Our goal is to have schools operate as close to a traditional model as possible. However, please understand that risk factors will play a significant part in determining if any changes are necessary in order to continue providing quality instruction in a safe manner. We will post a draft of our Reopening Plan on our website. This plan addresses areas of concern that may not be addressed directly in this communication. Please note that this plan is only a draft and is subject to change and it is also pending County approval.

#### **Screening Continuum:**

In order for schools to operate in a traditional format this year, screening for symptoms and history of exposure will be very important. For students attending East Rutherford Schools, there is a continuum where wellness should be checked.

- ☐ **Home:** This is the first point on the screening continuum and therefore, the most important. It is critical to the health and safety of all involved that students who exhibit symptoms stay home. Parents/guardians are encouraged to self-report symptoms of illness. Parents/guardians are asked to conduct a daily health screening for their children prior to attending school and to keep children home if they are demonstrating **ONE** or **MORE** of the following symptoms below:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>A fever of over 100 F</b></li> <li>● <b>Cough</b></li> <li>● <b>Shortness of Breath or difficulty breathing</b></li> <li>● <b>Chills</b></li> <li>● <b>New loss of taste or smell</b></li> <li>● <b>Congestion or runny nose</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Repeated shaking with chills</b></li> <li>● <b>Muscle Pain</b></li> <li>● <b>Headache</b></li> <li>● <b>Sore throat</b></li> <li>● <b>Fatigue</b></li> <li>● <b>Nausea or vomiting</b></li> <li>● <b>Diarrhea</b></li> </ul>
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- ❑ Upon the recommendation of the District Physician, any student that has traveled outside of the State and/or Country or has direct contact with a family member who traveled outside of the State and/or Country will be required to take a COVID-19 test before returning to school in September if they were not able to self-quarantine for the required number of days before the beginning of the school year. Please note, according to the CDC guidelines, the required number of days for self-quarantine remains at 14 days.
- ❑ Additionally, parents/guardians are requested to complete and submit a health survey by 7:30 a.m. daily in order for students to be permitted into the school buildings.
- ❑ Finally, parents/guardians are encouraged to update their contact information, so that in case we need to contact you, we have the latest information to do so. This is vital information for the health and safety of not only your child, but everyone on campus.
- ❑ **Transportation:** This is the second point on the screening continuum. Staff will visually observe for symptoms as well as take non-touch thermal temperature checks.
- ❑ **School:** This is the final point on the screening continuum. Staff will visually observe for symptoms as well as take non-touch thermal temperature checks and/or confirm with families that students are COVID-19 symptom free.

**Instructional Model:**

Our school district will be implementing a hybrid model. This means that there will be a combination of in-person and online instruction. We will be holding 3-days of in-person instruction and 2-days of on-line instruction.

The East Rutherford School District will also follow a 3-Phase Model. Each phase will be implemented based on the data received from the Department of Health, CDC and the State of New Jersey/Governor’s Office.

<b><i>District’s Three Phase Model</i></b>
The School District has implemented a Three Phase Model to assist with scheduling and maintaining the safety and well being of students and faculty. The purpose of the phases is to ensure that students remain in cohorts minimizing exposure to peers and staff.
<b>Phase I:</b> This phase will begin September 8th through October 16th.
<b>Phase II:</b> This phase will begin October 19th through November 27th.
<b>Phase III:</b> This phase will begin November 30th until reverted to a full opening schedule.

During **Phase I**, the East Rutherford School District will adhere to the following student attendance model for both McKenzie and Faust Schools.

Grade Level	Phase	Attendance Model
Pre-school	1	<p>Full day students will attend 5 days per week for 4 hours each day, while half day students will attend for 1 hour and 55 minutes, five days per week.</p> <p>It is important to note that on in-person instructional days, the students will be required to continue their learning at home after dismissal.</p>
K-8th Grade	1	<p>Students will attend 3 days per week (Mon-Wed) for <b>in-person instruction</b> and 2 days per week (Thurs. &amp; Fri.) for remote learning <u>ONLY</u>. It is important to note that on in-person instructional days, the students will be required to continue their learning at home after dismissal. Please see sample schedules below.</p>

During all four hour session of in-person and remote learning instruction, students will be engaged in learning in the following content areas:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mathematics</li> <li>● English Language Arts</li> <li>● Science</li> <li>● Social Studies</li> <li>● World Language</li> <li>● P/E/Dance/Theatre</li> <li>● Students will rotate weekly in the following cycle subject areas per grade level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Art</li> <li>■ Music</li> <li>■ Social Emotional Learning</li> <li>■ Financial Literacy (Faust School Only)</li> <li>■ Poetry/Journalism/Advisory (Faust School Only)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
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- On remote learning days, students will engage in subject area lessons through live instruction via Zoom, Google Meet, Google Classroom and Screencastify lessons.
- As previously indicated on in-person instructional days, after the dismissal of students, the teaching staff will conduct additional online support instruction, planning and professional learning.
- As part of the Modified Traditional Learning Model, students will be arriving and departing the school campus on a staggered schedule to ensure the reduction of exposure.
- Another component of the Modified Traditional Learning Model encompasses minimal switching of classes at the elementary and middle schools. Teachers will be traveling to students.

- During Phases II & III the current model will be adjusted accordingly to increase the number of days students engage in in-person instruction. This determination will be dependent upon the number of COVID-19 infections County and Statewide as well as guidance from the local health department.
- This model is subjected to change due to the number of students attending school as well as any adjustments to the NJDOE Reopening of Schools Guidance Document.

**East Rutherford School District McKenzie & Faust School Schedules**

- **McKenzie School Staggered Start & Dismissal Times: Students**

Grade	Start Time	Dismissal Time
Kindergarten	9:00 am	1:00 pm
1st & 2nd Grade	8:45 am	12:45 pm
3rd & 4th Grade	8:30 am	12:30 pm

- **McKenzie School Sample Onsite Schedule (Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday)**

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
8:45-9:25	Social Emotional Learning	Health	Dance/Theatre
9:25-10:05	Math	Math	Math
10:05-10:45	ELA	ELA	ELA
10:45-11:25	ELA	ELA	ELA
11:15-11:25	Break	Break	Break
11:25-12:05	Science	Science	Social Studies
12:05-12:45	Tech	Gym	Spanish
12:45-1:25	Dismissal/Lunch	Dismissal/Lunch	Dismissal/Lunch
1:25-2:05	Remote Instruction	Remote Instruction	Remote Instruction

- **McKenzie School Sample Virtual Schedule (Thursdays & Fridays)**

TIME	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:45-9:25	Science	Enrichment

9:25-10:05	ELA	ELA
10:05-10:45	ELA	ELA
10:45-11:15	Music	Art
11:15-11:25	Break	Break
11:25-12:05	Math	Math
12:05-12:45	Gym	Social Studies
12:45-1:25	Lunch	Lunch
1:25-2:05	Remote Instruction	Remote Instruction

- ❑ All ESL, Basic Skills, Special Education, and Reading Lab teachers will offer push in and pull out services as is appropriate.

- **Faust School Staggered Start & Dismissal Times: Students**

Grade Level	Arrival Time	Dismissal Time
Preschool (A.M.)	8:10 a.m.	10:05 a.m.
Preschool (P.M.)	10:15 a.m.	12:10 p.m.
Preschool (Full Day)	8:10 a.m.	12:10 p.m.
5th Grade & 6th Grade	8:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.
7 th Grade & 8th Grade	8:15 a.m.	12:15 p.m.

**Faust School Sample Onsite Schedule: (Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday)**

	Homeroom 1	Homeroom 2	Homeroom 3	Homeroom 4
Period 1	Math	ELA	Social Studies	Science
Period 2	Social Studies	Math	ELA	PE
Period 3	ELA	PE	Science	Social Studies
Period 4	PE	Science	Math	ELA
Period 5	Cycle	Cycle	Cycle	Cycle
Period 6	Science	Social Studies	PE	Math

### Faust School Sample Remote Schedule: (Thursdays & Fridays)

	Homeroom 1	Homeroom 2	Homeroom 3	Homeroom 4
Period 1	Math	ELA	Social Studies	Science
Period 2	Social Studies	Math	ELA	PE
Period 3	ELA	PE	Science	Social Studies
Period 4	PE	Science	Math	ELA
Period 5	Cycle	Cycle	Cycle	Cycle
Period 6	Science	Social Studies	PE	Math

- ❑ All ESL, Basic Skills, Special Education, and Reading Lab teachers will offer push in and pull out services as is appropriate.

We will be constantly monitoring our progress to determine when in-person instruction may be extended as we enter Phase II & Phase III. As previously indicated, this decision will be dependent on what takes place locally and at the State level.

The ultimate goal is to have all of our students back in school on a full day schedule.

**As you are aware, a survey was sent out to parents/guardians regarding choosing an option for returning in September. While most parents/guardians responded to the survey, the district is waiting for additional responses. In this regard, if you have not indicated your choice between five days of full remote instruction or the hybrid model of three days in-person and two days remote, please do so by Friday, August 7th.**

**Please contact your child's school Monday to Thursday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Faust School parents/guardians may also email their responses to Ms. Pat Monks at [pmonks@erboe.net](mailto:pmonks@erboe.net). McKenzie School parents/guardians may email their responses to Ms. Becky Lavernia at [blavornia@erboe.net](mailto:blavornia@erboe.net). Those parents/guardians who choose to change their selection, we encourage you to do so at this time as well. If the district does not receive a response from non-respondents, we will assign those students in the full 5 days remote option.**

We would also like to note several other items for all of us to keep in mind as we all travel along this journey. The start-up of the 2020-2021 school year will change and reflect our "new normal." With these changes in mind, we ask parents/guardians for their continued support of the East Rutherford School District.

1. **Protective Face Coverings:** Changes will be inclusive of requiring everyone on campus to wear a face mask and/or face shield and mask at all times. If a student forgets or refuses to wear a face mask, a call will be made home to have someone bring one to the school. If parents/guardians are unable to bring a mask to school, the students will be issued a mask. If the

student persists on refusing to wear a mask, they will be sent home as a safety precaution to protect themselves and others.

2. **Breakfast and Lunch:** Breakfast and lunch meals will be distributed to students as Grab & Go upon student arrival and dismissal. We will be instructing the students **not** to share food or other personal items. We encourage you to please speak to your child about these practices. Grab & Go meals will be provided for students learning remotely on Thursdays and Fridays. These meals will be distributed on Wednesdays at dismissal. For students on remote learning for all five days, families can pick-up student meals on Mondays only, from 11am-1pm at the Faust School Paterson Avenue Parking lot. During pick of meals, please be mindful of and adhere to social distancing guidelines.
3. **Transportation:** During Phase I, the East Rutherford School District will be suspending courtesy transportation. Transportation will only be provided for students that reside two miles or more outside of the school zone and for students that require this service in their Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). With keeping within the social distancing guidelines, a 54-passenger bus can only hold 11 passengers at one time. Due to the allowable number of students able to ride the bus, the East Rutherford School District would be unable to transport children to school on time for the start of their instructional day. We are asking parents/guardians to make arrangements for the prompt drop-off and pick-up of their children.
4. **School Supplies:** Students are encouraged to utilize a backpack to store school supplies for the 2020-2021 school year as there will be no use of lockers and/or cubbies. Preschool parents/guardians are encouraged to send school items in a labeled container for their children. Please be on the lookout for the supply lists from your child's classroom teacher.

As we look towards the opening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year, we always appreciate the ongoing support of the East Rutherford School Community and respect the professional partnership that continues to prioritize the educational, social and emotional needs of our Wildcats.

Sincerely,

*Giovanni A. Giancaspro*

Superintendent of Schools

To Access the Complete Plan Please Click [Here](#)

The Road Back "Restart and Recovery Plan for Education" The East Rutherford School District Reopening Plan 2020-21

