

Ripley Co R-IV (LoneStar) School District Return to Learn Plan 2021-2022

The Ripley Co R-IV School District would like to introduce the safety plan that will be utilized as we RETURN TO LEARN on August 24, 2021. The number one priority of our District is the safety and well-being of our students and staff. This plan is tailored to promote the safety and well-being of all who gather in our halls and on our campus. Our plan follows local and state guidelines regarding social distancing and sanitation to reduce the risk of infection and the spread of COVID-19. The policies and procedures set forth will help to guide our district as we “RETURN TO LEARN” to campus and educate your child. Please take comfort in knowing that this document is a working document that can and will change to meet the recommendations set forth by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), Governor Parsons, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), and our local Division of Health Services (DHS). This document will be revised as needed every six months.

Considerations for Families

Balancing the priorities of mitigating risk and opening schools across the state requires a whole community effort and partnership. By partnering and reaching out to our families and patrons, I know that we can work together in a collective effort to think and act in the best interest of the community as a whole. What happens beyond the school day impacts what happens on campus, so we ask that families do their best to mitigate risk outside of school. It is critically important that families honor our illness policy and keep children home if they are sick. The same is true for our employees. As part of the Ripley Co R-IV School family, we ask that you as patrons and community members please do your part to ensure the safety of our most valuable asset; our children.

In our well-intended attempts to be as flexible as possible, we have allowed ourselves to think outside of the box when dealing with this illness. We want to make sure to accommodate all patrons of the community and their feelings thereof. By embracing the transition of education and the “unchartered territory” that our world has faced since March of 2020, I want to ensure you as parents, guardians, grandparents, aunts, uncles, caregivers, staff, board members, patrons, stakeholders and students that Ripley Co R-IV School will still be the warm, welcoming, and educationally rich environment that we pride ourselves for being.

Seated School

We need every family to self-screen their students before putting them on the bus to ensure that they are fever free and that they do not have any symptoms of Coronavirus. It is imperative that we all do our part to ensure that our students are safe. If you have a confirmed case of Coronavirus in your home, please follow the CDC guidelines and keep your family home until quarantine is over.

Requirements

- *Drop off starts at 7:20 am.
- *School Day extension to 3:45 pm. Parent pick up begins 3:40 pm.
- *Teachers are REQUIRED to be on campus and in class at 7:30.
- *Temperature checks will be performed for all staff upon entering the building.

*Elementary students will come through the cafeteria and go to their classrooms. The cafeteria will no longer be a holding place for students. They will have a temperature check in their class and then have breakfast.

*Middle Building students will go directly to their building. A temperature check will be performed. Breakfast will be served in their building.

*Parents will have limited access to buildings at this time. When entering the building during school for a scheduled appointment, a temperature check will be performed.

*Students who stay for after school tutoring/extra-curricular activities will be required to sign in.

*Breakfast will be available to all students and employees. Breakfast options will vary and will be on a rotating schedule. Some days will be grab and go, while others will follow normal cafeteria procedures.

Requests

*We need EVERY family to self-screen their students before putting them on the bus to ensure that they are fever free and that they do not have any symptoms of COVID-19. It is imperative that we all do our part to ensure that our students are safe. If you have a confirmed case of COVID-19 in your home, please follow the CDC guidelines and keep your family home until the specified date of suggested quarantine is over.

*PK drop off will be at the PK building this year. This will be discussed at open house and procedures for drop off and pick up will be defined.

*K-8 drop off. Parents should drop off outside of cafeteria (K-4), middle building door (5-8) and watch child enter on the concrete. Please do not come to the door, as we will have to limit this availability to you. Please do not take this as a personal attack, but clearly as a safety precaution.

*PK-8 pick-up. We will formulate a car pick up line for students. This pick up will follow the same routine as last year. More information on this will be available at our open house discussion.

*Water fountains will NOT be utilized. Water bottles will be provided and sanitized daily at school. Please DO NOT send bottles from home. Pre-bottled water will also be made available daily. There are numerous water filling stations that students may utilize.

Decisions Regarding Campus Closure

While keeping campus open is a high priority, we will of course follow any mandated closures. We will work closely with the Missouri Department of Health and CDC guidelines and recommendations of medical health professionals, while considering the needs of the Ripley Co R-IV School District.

Mitigation and Prevention Strategies

Cleaning, sanitizing and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.

*Consistent with CDC

*Each classroom will be provided with a sanitation station consisting of hand sanitizers, wipes, masks, gloves, disinfectant spray and cloths. Available to use as often as needed.

*Teachers will greet students and will provide hand sanitizer upon classroom entrance.

*All classrooms and common areas will be equipped, checked and refilled daily with appropriate sanitation measures.

*Additional supplies ordered and in stock are

*Large spray canisters of disinfectant

*Hand sanitizer stations throughout common areas

*PPE (masks, gloves, thermometers)

- *Spray bottles and cleaning solutions for all common areas
- *Covid Foggers and solution to clean high traffic areas and busses

Category	Area	Frequency
Workspaces	Classrooms, Offices	At the end of each use/day
Appliances	Refrigerators, Microwaves, Coffee Machines, etc	Daily (if you have one in your area, you are responsible for cleaning it)
Electronic Equipment	Copier Machines, Shared computer monitors, tv's telephones, keyboards	At the end of each use/day and or between use.
General Use Objects	Handles, light switches, sinks restrooms	At least 2 times a day
Buses	Bus seats, handles/railings, belts, windows	At the end of each use/day
Common Areas	Dining hall, library, conference rooms, gyms, common areas	At the end of each use/day; between groups

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

- *Consistent with CDC
- *Handwashing and respiratory etiquette will be taught and reinforced
- *Sanitizer and tissues will be provided

Social and Physical Distancing

- *Consistent with CDC
- *For students arriving late to school. Parents should call the office at 996-7118. A staff member will meet children at the vehicle and take them to the office. Parents should not come into the office at this time.
- *To limit movement of students around the school, faculty and staff will use supplies in classroom first aid kits, and the nurse aides and or Superintendent will be called to classrooms as needed. Students do not need to be sent to office with prior notice.
- *Masks and hand sanitizer will be available in the office, if needed.
- *Door handles and light switches will be sanitized frequently, increasingly so during high traffic times.
- *Physical distancing strategies will be implemented based on the feasibility of the unique space and needs of each building.
- *Personal work spaces will be cleaned and sanitized frequently.

Parents and Visitors

Parents will have limited access to all buildings due to risk of infection. When entering the building during school for a scheduled appointment, a temperature check will be performed.

Universal and correct wearing of masks

*Consistent with CDC

*Masks are allowed

*Masks are not mandated at this time. Wearing a mask is a personal choice and the Ripley Co R-IV School district will not be requiring students or staff to wear one. However, masks are supported based on individual preference.

Contact Tracing (in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local territorial or tribal health departments)

*Consistent with CDC

*Contract tracing by LEA

Diagnostic and Screening testing

*Testing available at LPHA or Clinic

Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible

*LEA participates in vaccination events

*LEA will post and make information available on upcoming vaccination events

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies

*Accommodations will be made as necessary or as mandated by the Individual Education Plan

*Accommodations being limited to IEP's will be provided opportunity to receive other accommodations if differing needs arise.

*Additional accommodations will be taken care of as they arise, on an as needed basis.

Illness at School

Ripley Co R-IV School will follow all Missouri Department of Health and CDC guidelines regarding student illness in school during COVID-19. **Parents MUST keep children home if they are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.** Students over the age of 3 who experience the following COVID-19 symptoms at school will be given a mask, placed in an isolation room, and parent/guardian will be called for immediate pick up:

*Fever >100.4

*Cough

*Shortness of breath

*New loss of taste or smell

*Close contact with a person who has had COVID in the last 14 days.

Students who are sent home must remain home until symptom free without the aid of any medication. Once the student returns to school, the nurse will need to check the student back into school.

Staff Screening

*Staff members will screen at home following the same protocols as families screening students.

Bussing

We will continue to provide transportation to all our students, as we have in the past. However we will have some additional procedures to follow:

*Request that parents confirm that they will be utilizing bussing this year.

- *Assigned seats with family members when possible.
- *Sanitizer will be given upon bus entry
- *Buses will be sanitized using the fogger approved for Covid disinfecting practices each day.

Short-term Distance Learning (DL) Plan (72 hours)

This basic plan will be adopted to support any children who need to have an extended absence due to quarantine or similar reason. This plan will be utilized only if we are required to close for up to 72 hours.

*An at-home project will be sent home digitally to include core classes. (Elementary: Math, ELA; Middle School; All classes would send assignments and projects)

*Instructions for online learning would be sent via emails.

*For children out of school due to quarantine for extended time, families will receive a check-in from classroom teachers and will be sent videos/lessons.

Long-term Distance Learning Plan

This is the minimum plan in place to be used ONLY if **Ripley Co R-IV** is required to close campus for an extended period of time.

*Daily lessons will be emailed to families or information about online assignments will be sent by 6pm the evening before.

*Two online meetings will be offered weekly. The platform to be utilized has not been finalized.

*One on one meetings will be scheduled weekly for each student using email, zoom, google classroom, etc.

Learning Management Systems (LMS)

We will be compiling our own virtual learning option for students. We will utilize Zoom programs, google hangout and will also incorporate google classrooms to help prepare students for success whether they are at school or home. Teachers and staff will communicate with families on access to assignments and specific needs in the event that a child is absent from school for an extended period of time.

Grading and Attendance

We will be returning to our normal grading policy for this school year, including distance learning days. Attendance during any distance learning days will be taken based on participation in online sessions and completion of assignments.

Assessments

If we enter distance learning for an extended period of time, students will continue to learn and be assessed, however, the format of the assessments will likely change to take into consideration the resources available to students at home.

Technology

In the event of a long-term quarantine, students will be provided with a device if their parent has indicated that they do not have a device at home. This will be used for SCHOOL work only!

Parents without internet access

We have wifi internet access points available in the parking lot for parents to access if school is not in session.

Early Childhood Education (Pre School)

Our new routine for drop off is designed to ensure everyone in our school stays healthy and safe. Students will be dropped off at the PK building at the back of the school by following the parking lot at the end of campus by the playground. Parents will drop off their child. They may walk them to the door, but will need to remain outside. Parents will then follow the route behind the school and exit under the awning in between buildings. Any child arriving after 8 am, needs their parent to contact the office so that we may meet you outside and get your child so that we may walk them to class. PK students will eat breakfast in their classroom.

PK Nap Time

All nap cots will be spread as far apart as possible during naptime. Pillows and blankets will be sent home weekly for washing.

Cleaning

PK teachers do an excellent job of maintaining and keeping their area clean and sanitized. I have no doubt that they will continue the great job that they do! They will continue to implement, and supplement, our already rigorous cleaning routine throughout the day. All high touch surfaces and objects will be disinfected regularly. This will include, but not limited to all learning materials, toys, door handles, bathrooms, sinks, and playground equipment. All sanitizing products are safe for frequent use with children. All shared spaces will be disinfected before other children enter the play area. We will follow all handwashing and sanitation procedures.

Dining

Preschool and Kindergarten will eat breakfast in their rooms. 1st-4th will eat breakfast in their classrooms and 5th-8th will eat in their building. We will offer three rotating lunch schedules to accommodate all students and adhere to social distancing suggestions.

Aftercare/Pick up

PK students will be picked up in the car line at 3:40.

Elementary and Middle Building Students (K-8)

Safety Procedures

Ripley Co R-IV has plans in place to mitigate risks for students and staff. Staff will wash hands and sanitize before each transition and throughout the day as needed. Individual students will have their own set of supplies. Students will be sharing supplies as little as possible. If materials are shared, they will be sanitized between uses.

Classrooms

Teachers will have the ability to be flexible and unique to the set up of their classrooms. They will be allowed to continue to utilize flex seating options if they choose. Students will be distanced and areas will be sanitized. This has proven to be a highly successful approach to learning and I want to ensure that students have access to this ability.

Special Classes

Students will have access to special classes and the ability to travel to those designated areas. Those areas such as the gym, music, art, computer rooms and equipment will be sanitized between uses.

Recess

Children need to PLAY. PLAY IS A CHILDS' NATURAL LANGUAGE. We will be having recess! School is about so much more than learning! It's about socializing, friendships, sports and life lessons that come from interaction. We will be interacting together. It will look differently than it has in the past, but PLAY WE WILL!!

Water

We will be utilizing automatic water fillers from Pepsi with pre-bottled water. This will be a touchless option for students.

Schedule

Schedules will be released at open house. Please note the end day change. School will start at 8 am but will dismiss at 3:45 this year. Therefore, if your child rides a bus they will be getting home around 10 minutes later, and if they are a pick up, they will not be able to be picked up until 3:40.

Consequences for Student Non-Compliance

Students are expected to follow all health and safety guidelines established by the school. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary consequences as outlined in the student handbook.

Sports

At this time, we are planning to offer sporting events as they promote discipline and a sense of ownership in childrens' behaviors. We will work with area schools and will devise our plan for games when the time gets closer.

*****This plan will be revised as needed no less that every 6 months*****