

April 27, 2021

Dear RPS Family,

We could not be more excited to begin the process of reopening our schools and welcoming our students and teachers back into classrooms this summer and fall. As we #ReopenWithLove2.0, we have three key principles:

- **Extend grace and love to all students, staff, and families** – Returning to in-person instruction will require the same grace, love, and flexibility that we extended each other during our virtual year. We'll need to reestablish school and classroom routines, learn and follow safety protocols, and adjust to ever-changing health recommendations. I'm confident that if we continue to work together and support one another, RPS will open stronger than ever before.
- **Protect everyone's health and safety, including their mental health** – During the closure, our facilities team has been hard at work making all sorts of changes in our buildings to protect everyone's health and safety. We're placing standalone HEPA filtration units in every classroom and common area, upgrading our bathrooms with touchless soap and paper towel dispensers, installing hand sanitizer stations throughout our buildings, and more. We're also investing in more mental health supports for our students and staff to provide everyone with the support they need.
- **Communicate, communicate, communicate** – We know coming back to in-person school is going to be a big change for everyone and you'll likely have lots of questions. So we're going to do our very best to communicate in a number of different ways so you have all the information you need to make the best possible decisions for your family. To kick things off, we have a series of informational events this spring. You can find all the details about them on our website at www.rvaschools.net/conversations.

Now to the first key decision you need to make for next school year. We're going to have two options for students: 5 days/week of in-person learning OR 5 days/week of virtual learning. We strongly encourage everyone to come back in-person, but understand that some families may prefer or need to remain virtual for health reasons. (Please see the attached Virtual Learning FAQ document for more information about both options.) If you want your student/s to come back in-person, you don't need to do anything. In-person is the default option. But if you want them to remain virtual, you'll need to let us know by June 1, 2021 by filling out the 2021-22 Virtual Enrollment Form on our website.

Before signing off, I just want to express my profound gratitude to our teachers and support staff for the extraordinary job they've done this year. They have literally reinvented our school system and done so with excellence. Through countless actions, small and large, they have once again truly shown what it means to Lead, Teach, and Serve with Love.

With great appreciation,



Jason Kamras
Superintendent

Topic	Checklist	Where To Get Help
In-Person Fall Enrollment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> If your student(s) will return for in-person instruction in the fall, <u>no action is necessary</u> and your student(s) will be enrolled in your zoned school or other school in which enrollment has been confirmed. <input type="checkbox"/> Do I know my student's current zoned school? 	<p>Visit www.rvaschools.net/school-locator and enter your address to verify your current zone school.</p> <p>Email enrollrps@rvaschools.net if you have any questions about your in-person school assignment for 2021-2022.</p>
Virtual Fall Enrollment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> If your student(s) will enroll in virtual instruction for the beginning of the school year, please complete the Virtual Instruction Intent Form by June 1, 2021. 	<p>Learn more about virtual options for the 2021-22 school year at www.rvaschools.net/virtual-options.</p> <p>Complete the Virtual Instruction Intent Form by June 1, 2021 at www.rvaschools.net/virtual-enrollment.</p>
Division and School Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Am I signed up for Remind, the division's texting application? <input type="checkbox"/> How do I find my student's school website? <input type="checkbox"/> Am I subscribed to RPS Direct, the Superintendent's daily email? <input type="checkbox"/> Do I follow RPS on social media? <input type="checkbox"/> Is my current address, phone number, and email updated with my student's school? 	<p>Download the Remind app on the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. Learn more at www.rvaschools.net/remind.</p> <p>Visit www.rvaschools.net and click on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 'Our Schools' to access each school website and each principal's contact information → 'RPS Direct' in the icon list to subscribe to RPS Direct → 'Stay Connected' social media icons on the bottom of the homepage to follow us! <p>Contact your student's school to update your contact information.</p>
Welcome Center & English Learner Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Do I need translation/interpretation services, school enrollment support, or English proficiency screening for English Learner (EL) eligibility? <input type="checkbox"/> My student needs English language support. What supports are available? Who do I contact? 	<p>Call 804-230-2980 or 804-780-6195, option 2.</p> <p>Visit www.rvaschools.net/liep for English Learner support.</p>
Exceptional Education Academic Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> My student has an IEP. What supports are available? Who do I contact to schedule an IEP meeting or set up services? 	<p>Contact the Instructional and Compliance Coordinator at your student's school: www.rvaschools.net/oeess-contacts.</p>
Housing Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Do I need support or additional resources for housing? 	<p>Call the Center for Families in Transition at 804-780-6288.</p>
Family Support Line & Community Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> What if I have other questions about reopening, student enrollment, technology support and other issues that affect students and families? <input type="checkbox"/> Where can I go for additional support? 	<p>Call the Family Support Line at 804-780-6195 to connect (in English or Spanish) with an RPS employee who can assist you with your questions and direct you to additional resources.</p> <p>Visit www.rvaschools.net/family-resources for a list of community resources and programs.</p>
Engage with Us!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> What other opportunities are there for me to learn more about reopening and how RPS will be protecting the health & safety of students and staff? 	<p>Visit www.rvaschools.net/conversations to learn more about upcoming virtual and in-person opportunities to talk to RPS staff and leadership, and learn more about reopening plans.</p>

Virtual Pathway for the 2021-22 School Year

	For Preschool – 5th Grade	For 6th Grade – 12th Grade
Program	RPS Virtual Academy	Virtual Virginia
Who runs the program?	The RPS Virtual Academy will be run by RPS and staffed with RPS teachers.	Virtual Virginia is run by the Virginia Department of Education and staffed with Virginia certified teachers.
What will the daily schedule look like?	Student schedules will be similar to the ones we used this year. Please note, however, that Wednesdays will be full instructional days. Exact start and end times will be finalized this summer.	Student schedules will vary depending on when Virtual Virginia is able to offer their courses. Some classes may be scheduled in the evenings. Students will work with their school counselor to determine their exact schedule.
When is the first day of school?	September 8	August 24 (This date is set by the Virginia Department of Education.)
What about sports and other activities?	Students will be able to participate in sports and other school-based activities at their “home” school (the school they would be attending in-person).	Students will be able to participate in sports and other school-based activities at their “home” school (the school they would be attending in-person).
Will there be an opportunity to move to in-person instruction during the year?	Yes. PreK-5th graders will be able to change to in-person instruction at the end of each quarter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of 1st Quarter: November 12 • End of 2nd Quarter: January 28 • End of 3rd Quarter: April 15 	Yes. 6th-8th graders will be able to change to in-person instruction at the end of each quarter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of 1st Quarter: November 12 • End of 2nd Quarter: January 28 • End of 3rd Quarter: April 15 <p>Due to the 4x4 schedule, 9th-12th graders will only be able to change to in-person instruction at the end of the first semester.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of 1st Semester: January 28
How do I enroll? (Please note that the default enrollment option for all families is in-person instruction.)	To enroll in the RPS Virtual Academy, all you need to do is complete the 2021-22 Virtual Enrollment Form on the RPS website (www.rvaschools.net) by June 1.	To enroll in Virtual Virginia, there are 2 steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First, you will need to complete the 2021-22 Virtual Enrollment Form on the RPS website (www.rvaschools.net) by June 1. • Second, your school counselor will work with your student/s to select and formally enroll in Virtual Virginia courses.
Where can I go if I have more questions?	Please email us at outreach@rvaschools.net or call us at 804-780-6195.	

Health and Safety Measures

RPS is committed to keeping everyone healthy and safe when we return in the fall.
Here are just some of the measures we're taking.

Vaccination

- Everyone 16 or older can now get the vaccine. All staff, families, and students are strongly encouraged to get it as soon as possible.
- Though the vaccine is not required at this time, it may be in the future with updated CDC guidance. Again, please take the opportunity right now to get vaccinated.

Daily Symptom Checking

- Families, students, and staff will be required to self-check at home before coming to school.
- All visitors will be required to perform a symptom-check upon entry to buildings.

Masks

- Masks will be required for all students, staff, and visitors at all times, except during meals.
- Masks will be provided to anyone who does not have one.

Hand Washing & Sanitizing

- Every classroom and common area will have a wall-mounted hand sanitizer station.
- All bathrooms will have touchless paper towel and soap dispensers.
- Students will wash hands or use hand sanitizer every 2 hours and prior to meals.

Social/Physical Distancing

- Classroom layouts will support 3 feet of distancing to the greatest extent possible.
- Use of communal spaces (cafeteria, library, playground, etc.) will be staggered.

Air Quality

- Standalone HEPA filtration units will be placed in all classrooms and common areas.
- Building HVAC systems will have upgraded air filters.
- All buses will be equipped with air filtration systems and will keep windows open, weather permitting.

Supportive Care Spaces

- A Supportive Care Space will be available at each school to isolate those with any COVID-19 symptoms.
- Parents and caregivers will be notified to pick up any student who is sick as quickly as possible.

Contact Tracing & Quarantine/Closure

- RPS will continue to work in collaboration with the Richmond City Health District (RCHD) to perform contact tracing of all positive cases.
- Classes/schools will be quarantined when advised by RCHD.
- In the event of a closure, RPS will continue instruction virtually.

Questions?

Learn more at www.rvaschools.net/reopenwithlove or call our Family Support Line at 804-780-6195.