

RHODES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

March 30, 2021

Hello Rhodes families,

We want to thank you for trusting us with your children as we return to in-person learning for just over 50% of our students on **April 6th**. Over the next 2+ months, we look forward to having every single one of them in the building as we move towards a Hybrid Instructional model for the rest of the 2020-21 school year. The goal of this letter is to provide you with as much information as possible while hopefully not overwhelming you. We know there is a lot of information here, but hopefully it is helpful. If you have any follow up questions please feel free to contact the office.

Arrival

- The building will open at **7:30 am**.
 - Please be patient the first few days as there may be lines to get into the building. As has happened in other schools, we expect the arrival process to get smoother with practice.
- Bussers
 - If you live in Melrose Park and your child is riding the bus, they should be at the bus stop by **7:10**. Buses will pick students up between **7:15-7:25 am**.
 - All students **MUST wear a mask** at the bus stop and while riding the bus.
 - A staff member will take students' temperatures before they board the bus.
 - If a student's temperature is over 100 degrees they will have to return home for that day.
 - When the bus riders arrive at school they will enter through their assigned doors and go directly to their classrooms. Bus supervisors have their door assignments and will share them on April 6th.
- Walkers
 - Students who are either walking or being dropped off can begin to enter the building at **7:30 am**. We will have the car drop-off zone available every day for parents.
 - All students and parents **MUST wear a mask** when they enter Rhodes property, including as they line up outside on our sidewalks.
 - Students will have their temperature checked right inside the door.
 - If a student's temperature is over 100 degrees we will have to call their parents and they will return home.
 - If their temperature is below 100 degrees they will go directly to their classrooms.
 - Door Assignment are as follows:

Door 1	Preschool walkers and parent drop-offs 3rd-6th Grade walkers and parent drop-offs
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Door 2	Kindergarten-2nd Grade walkers and parent drop-offs
Door 8	7th-8th Grade walkers and parent drop-offs

Door 1



Door 2



Door 8 (back of the alley)



Supplies

- **PK-5th Grade** students **do NOT** need to bring their assigned chromes to school.
 - We have on-sight chromes for students at school.
 - Students will use the chromes they currently have at home for afternoon instruction.
- **6th-8th Grade** students **DO** need to bring their chromes to school with them.
 - PLEASE make sure they charge them every night, as classrooms have limited outlets for charging during the day.
- Homeroom teachers will be contacting you about school supply lists. Students will not be using lockers this year, but they can take their backpacks to class with them.

Schedules

- All Kindergarten-8th Grade students will follow this schedule (bus pickup only pertains to some students):

7:15-7:25am	Bus pickup (Students taking the bus should arrive at their bus stop before 7:15.)
7:30am-7:50am	Arrive at school
7:50-11:50am	Morning instruction (in person for in-person learners; remotely for remote learners)
11:50-1:00pm	Dismissal & Lunch (Lunch delivered to bus stops on Tuesdays and Thursdays)
1:00-2:00pm	Afternoon instruction (remotely for all learners)
2:15-3:00pm	After school groups (8th Gr Spanish, Title 1, clubs, chorus)

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- Select Middle School students will also attend classes at 12:30-1:00pm. This includes 6th and 7th grade Spanish and some Band classes. Please see your student's teacher for details.
- K-8th Grade Morning Instruction
 - K-5th Grade classes will be 30 minutes long.
 - Some subjects may be taught for multiple 30 minute periods.
 - 6th-8th Grade classes will be 57 minutes long.
 - We will no longer offer Study Hall.
 - Passing periods between classes for teachers will be 3 minutes long.
- K-8th Grade Afternoon Instruction
 - All remote K-8th Grade classes in the afternoon will be 30 minutes long.
- Preschool will continue with their current schedule

Morning Instruction Information

- Some in-person students will have new teachers starting Tuesday, April 6th.
 - You should have already heard from your student's new teacher. We did our best to limit this change for students.
- All PK-8th grade students will remain in their homerooms for the entire 4 hours of In-Person learning except for on the following occasions:
 - Band lessons
 - Outdoor mask breaks
 - Title One, Social Work, Speech, EL or SPED support
 - Bathroom breaks
 - Each class has 2 scheduled bathroom breaks
 - 3 students may use the bathroom at a time.
 - PE Class
 - In-person for K-5th grade students in the gymnasium
 - Students will be spaced out and wear masks indoors
- Students can bring their own water bottles to school.
 - Students may fill and refill their bottles at school.
 - We ask that students bring straws to slip under their masks for drinking.
- Please work with your child over the next week to wear a mask properly.
 - Masks must cover their nose and mouth.
 - We will have extra masks at every entry point, on each bus and in each classroom.
- If a student has to sneeze or cough they will be encouraged to lower their mask and do so into a kleenex or their elbow. They should immediately dispose of their kleenex and use hand sanitizer.
 - Hand sanitizer will be provided. We ask that any personal hand sanitizer brought to school is unscented.

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Student Illness

- Students who show signs of COVID-19 will be asked to go home early.
 - If a student shows signs of being ill (excessive coughing or sneezing, high temperature, lethargic, etc) the nurse will be called to assess them.
 - Students showing signs of COVID-19 will wait in a special room called the “Care Corner”, while the nurse contacts their parents. Parents must pick up their child within 45-60 minutes.
 - The student’s teacher and classmates will relocate to an empty classroom, and the room the child was in will be disinfected.
- If a student does show signs or does in fact test positive for COVID-19 then we will inform the parents of every student in that classroom with a letter that will go home, and we will email a note to every parent and staff member in our building. If they have a sibling then they will go home too and a letter would be sent to the families of that classroom as well.
- It is important to remember if your child has been in contact with anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or with anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 they must remain at home for 7-14 days per the IDPH guidelines. Please contact the nurse if this is the case and let her know. The guidelines are posted [here](#).
- We will deal with a number of situations on a case-by-case basis, considering relatives, close contacts, the CDC guidelines, and any other relevant contextual information.

Dismissal & Lunch

- Dismissal will begin at 11:43am and will be staggered. Parents who pick up their students should be prepared to do so by 11:43am, understanding that students will continue to make their exit until 11:50am. We may push this time closer to 11:50 as the quarter continues, and we will share that information with parents.
- **We ask that every parent who is on Rhodes property wears a mask** and remains six feet away from other parents and students.
- Students who are riding the bus home should begin arriving at their bus stops around **12:00 pm**. All PK-4th grade students must have a parent, guardian or older sibling at the bus stop to meet them.
- Food distribution will continue to happen every Tuesday and Thursday at the same locations but with new hours, between **12:05-12:35 pm**.

Afternoon Instruction

- Online instruction continues from **1:00-2:00 pm** for every student.

Helpful video for parents

You may also find it helpful to watch this [informational video](#) about our hybrid learning plan. Please be patient as the video may take a few seconds to load. There have been a few changes to our plan since this video was made:

- 1st and 2nd graders will enter through Door 2, not on the playground

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- Food delivery times start at 12:05, not 12:00
- There will not be a rollout plan for our first day. All students will begin on April 6th.

There has been so much change this year and so much to share with families. Thank you for continuing to stay on top of the latest updates and to communicate with your teachers and Rhodes staff. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us in the main office. We can't wait to see your child next week!

Sincerely,

Brian McConnell, Principal
Rhodes School