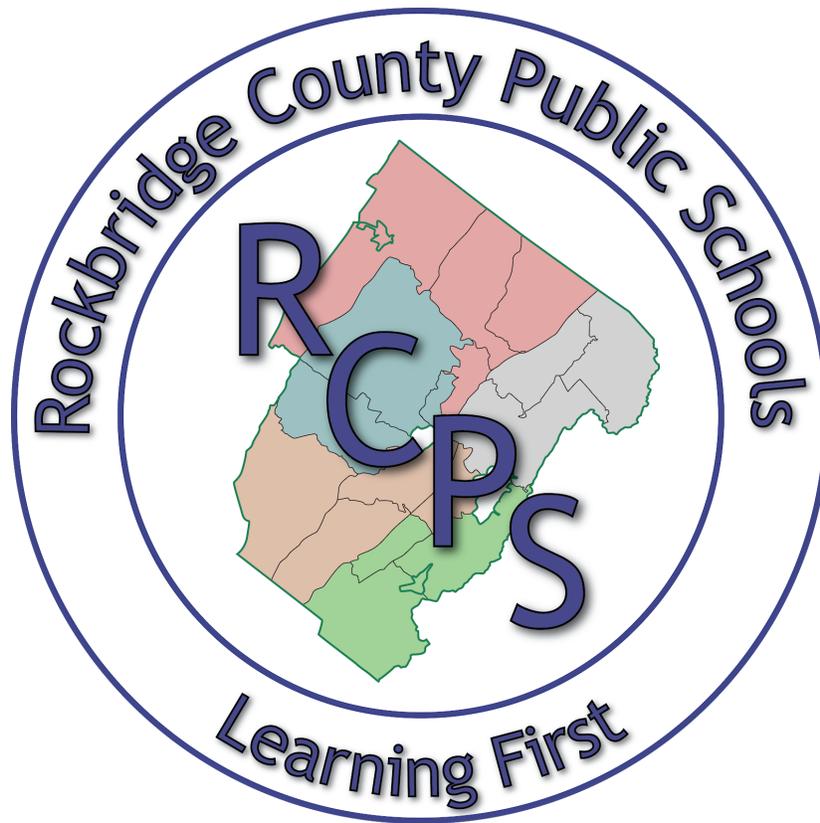


**Rockbridge County Public Schools**  
**Re-Entry Plan**  
**November 2020**



## **Overview**

The 2020-2021 school year has been challenging for all stakeholders in Rockbridge County Public Schools (RCPS). Learners, teachers, parents, and community partners are doing all they can to make the school year successful. There have been many positive instructional changes in our schools over the past several weeks. Teachers are using varied modalities to meet the needs of all learners. Teacher-led videos are created and sent to learners on a daily basis. Many of the videos go well beyond the content and focus on student mental health. Teachers make time to meet with students in small groups or one-on-one through Google Meet to ensure that learners are grasping the necessary skills and information to be successful in a digital format. Our school division has grown significantly in our new learning environment.

Currently, there are learners in all school buildings as well as in digital formats across K-12. All pre-K, kindergarten, and first grade learners have been invited to participate in four days of in-person instruction. Students identified with a disability and English Learners (EL) have also been invited to participate four days per week. Some unique exceptions have been made for learners with no internet access or extenuating circumstances. Each situation is evaluated by school administration and Central Office staff.

As we move forward, RCPS continues to collaborate with the local health department and enhance health plans for each school. Student and staff temperatures are taken upon entering school buildings. RCPS collaborates with the Virginia Department of Health in the event that a student or staff member becomes ill or infected with COVID-19. The transportation department ensures that learners transported in a bus or car are following social distancing and face covering guidelines.

Data surrounding COVID-19 is analyzed multiple times over each week. At this time, Rockbridge County is considered to be in the moderate risk range in regards to COVID-19. There are several factors taken into consideration when this determination is made. It is not solely based on the number of cases currently present. Since the start of the teacher workdays, there have been five cases in our school division. Due to social distancing and face covering protocols, RCPS has been able to minimize the transmission of COVID-19 within our schools.

In the following pages you will find the RCPS re-entry framework for high, middle, and elementary schools. There is some variance between the elementary and secondary school framework plans. Please note that the following established plans are fluid. Depending on certain circumstances and outcomes they will continually be evaluated, modified, and enhanced.

## **Rockbridge County High School**

Rockbridge County High School (RCHS) is the largest school in the division. Over 1,000 learners from across Rockbridge County and Lexington City attend RCHS. As we focus on bringing students back to in-person learning the recommendation is to invite the class of 2024 (freshman) at the beginning of the second nine weeks, November 10, 2020. Learners attending school would do so in a hybrid model. A learner would be given the opportunity to attend school twice per week in-person. The freshman class would be broken into two teams (A and B) and each team would attend school on two consecutive days with the exception of Fridays. Fridays will be a virtual day for all learners attending RCHS. Approximately 165 learners would be in attendance at RCHS on a given day.

After much thought and careful consideration, the class of 2024 is being recommended as the first group of students to return to in-person learning at RCHS. This determination was made primarily due to these learners transitioning to high school from middle school during the 2020-2021 school year. Freshman year builds an academic and social foundation for learners and serves as a cornerstone for the high school experience.

Weekly Instructional Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
In School, Team A	In School, Team A	In School, Team B	In School, Team B	Virtual, Team A
Virtual, Team B	Virtual, Team B	Virtual, Team A	Virtual, Team A	Virtual, Team B

Parents who choose to keep their child at home but continue to keep them enrolled at RCHS will be provided with virtual instruction. If a parent decides to keep their child in a digital format they must do so for the entire second nine weeks of school. A parent may reconsider their decision at the beginning of the third nine weeks which is set to begin on Tuesday, February 2, 2021.

## **Maury River Middle School**

Maury River Middle School (MRMS) has over 600 learners. As a school division we are recommending the sixth grade class return to in-person learning during the second nine weeks. Beginning November 10, 2020, it is recommended that the approximately 200 sixth graders return to school in a hybrid format. A learner would be given the opportunity to attend school twice per week in-person. The sixth grade class would be broken into two teams (A and B) and each team would attend school on two consecutive days with the exception of Fridays. Friday will be a virtual day for all learners attending MRMS.

After much thought and careful consideration the sixth grade class is being recommended as the first group of students to return to in-person learning at MRMS. This determination was made primarily due to these learners transitioning to middle school from elementary school during the 2020-2021 school year. The sixth grade year builds a foundation for a learner's secondary school experience.

Weekly Instructional Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
In School, Team A	In School, Team A	In School, Team B	In School, Team B	Virtual, Team A
Virtual, Team B	Virtual, Team B	Virtual, Team A	Virtual, Team A	Virtual, Team B

Parents who choose to keep their child at home but continue to keep them enrolled at MRMS will be provided with virtual instruction. If a parent decides to keep their child in a digital format they must do so for the entire second nine weeks of school. A parent may reconsider their decision at the beginning of the third nine weeks which is set to begin on Tuesday, February 2, 2021.

## **Rockbridge County Elementary Schools**

Rockbridge County is home to four elementary schools. Currently, all pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and first grade learners have been invited to attend school four days per week. In addition, students identified with disabilities and English learners have also been given the option to attend school in-person four days a week. Beginning November 10, 2020, it is recommended that second and third grade learners across the school division return to in-person learning in a hybrid format. A learner would be given the opportunity to attend school twice per week in-person. The second and third grade classes would be broken into two teams (A and B) and each team would attend school two consecutive days with the exception of Fridays. Friday will be a virtual day for all learners attending a RCPS elementary school.

Second and third grade learners are being asked to return to school due to their developmental needs. Such young learners require rigorous and targeted reading instruction. They are at a critical juncture in learning as their reading abilities will drive their educational career.

Weekly Instructional Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
In School, Team A	In School, Team A	In School, Team B	In School, Team B	Virtual, Team A
Virtual, Team B	Virtual, Team B	Virtual, Team A	Virtual, Team A	Virtual, Team B

Parents who choose to keep their child at home but continue to keep them enrolled at a RCPS elementary school will be provided with virtual instruction. If a parent decides to keep their child in a virtual/digital format they must do so for the entire second nine weeks of school. A parent may reconsider their decision at the beginning of the third nine weeks which is set to begin on Tuesday, February 2, 2021.

## **Initial Recommendation**

After in-depth consideration, it is recommended all second, third, sixth, and ninth grade learners return to school in a hybrid model beginning on Tuesday, November 10, 2020.

## **Final Recommendation**

It has been a unique start to the 2020-2021 school year. The first quarter of the school year has posed many challenges for students, teachers, parents, and community members. RCPS senior staff has been in close contact with the local and state health department for the last several months. After evaluating the current COVID-19 situation, the needs of our learners, and the demands of all RCPS employees it is recommended that **ALL** 2nd-12th grade learners return to school in a hybrid model beginning Monday, November 30th.

**Rockbridge County High School** - All 9th-12th grade learners return to school on a hybrid schedule beginning Monday, November 30, 2020.

**Maury River Middle School** - All 6th-8th grade learners return to school on a hybrid schedule beginning Monday, November 30, 2020.

**Mountain View Elementary School** - PreK-1st grade learners will continue to attend school four days per week and 2nd-5th grade learners would return to school on a hybrid schedule beginning Monday, November 30, 2020.

**Fairfield Elementary School** - PreK-1st grade learners will continue to attend school four days per week and 2nd-5th grade learners would return to school on a hybrid schedule beginning Monday, November 30, 2020.

**Natural Bridge Elementary School** - PreK-1st grade learners will continue to attend school four days per week and 2nd-5th grade learners would return to school on a hybrid schedule beginning Monday, November 30, 2020.

**Central Elementary School** - PreK-1st grade learners will continue to attend school four days per week and 2nd-5th grade learners would return to school on a hybrid schedule beginning Monday, November 30, 2020.

This recommendation is made after months of analyzing multiple factors in Rockbridge County Public Schools. We are confident with the appropriate mitigation strategies in place the recommended hybrid model is in the best interest of all learners.