

# REOPENING RUSH-HENRIETTA

FALL 2021

*The Board of Education will review this tentative plan on August 31. This plan is subject to change.*

As the Rush-Henrietta Central School District prepares for the 2021-2022 school year in the wake of COVID-19, district leaders have developed a reopening plan that provides a more traditional school experience, while keeping safeguards in place for students and employees.

## BRINGING STUDENTS BACK FULL-TIME

We believe Rush-Henrietta has a moral obligation to students and families to reopen its doors. Our goal is to bring all students back to campus for in-person instruction five days a week, with the exception of students who chose to attend the Remote Learning Academy.

This remains an emotional and anxiety-inducing time for our school community. We recognize the stress that returning to school might place on our students, families, and employees. This is especially true for more than 1,000 students who learned remotely last year and are returning to school for the first time in more than 500 days. With that in mind, we will pay special attention to the mental wellness of all students and employees this fall, providing support where possible.

## OUR PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The vast majority of our students are returning full-time to school, and the health and safety of students, families, and staff members remain of utmost importance. The infection rate, spread of the virus, and the response to it in our region is at the forefront of our decision-making. It is not possible to remove all risk of infection and disease now that COVID-19 is well established, but measures are in place to minimize these risks for all. We appreciate your continued support.

## WHAT STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES CAN EXPECT

### MASKING

Masking is required of all students and employees, regardless of vaccine status, while indoors. Masks are not required outside. Masking breaks are possible if students are at least three feet apart and not facing one another. Windows will be kept open when feasible. Desk shields are not necessary. Masking requirements will be revisited after the first month of school. Masking exemptions are available on a limited basis to students with a valid and documented diagnosis.

### DISTANCING

Classroom seating will be set up when possible to allow three feet between students. Distancing markers, indicating three and six feet, will be visible on the floors. Students taking part in choral, band, and physical education activities will be kept six feet apart, or have appropriate masking, whenever possible.

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## HEALTH SCREENINGS

Daily health screenings are no longer required of students or employees. We ask parents and employees to follow established guidelines for monitoring symptoms, and stay home if ill. A list of symptoms is available at [www.rhnet.org/symptoms](http://www.rhnet.org/symptoms) and on page 31 of the district calendar.

## COVID-19 TESTING

Any student or employee with a positive COVID-19 test result must notify the building principal or supervisor and follow isolation/quarantine orders provided by the department of health. COVID-19 testing will not be provided in buildings at this time.

## PERSONAL HYGIENE

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette will be taught, encouraged, and reinforced. Any student or employee displaying any sign of infectious illness will visit the nurse's office, be isolated, and then sent home.

## CLEANING

Heightened cleaning and disinfecting protocols include daily disinfecting of each classroom. Desk and table surfaces will be cleaned periodically. Wipes are available in each classroom if teachers desire more frequent cleaning.

## TRANSPORTATION

Our buses will be running at their stated capacity. Masks are required at all times while on a bus. Each bus will be disinfected at least daily. High-touch areas will be wiped down after each bus run. Windows will be cracked open whenever temperatures are above 40 degrees. Drivers will maintain seating charts and take daily attendance. Masks and face shields are available on each bus and dispensed when requested.

## FOOD SERVICES

Students should be spaced three feet apart when eating meals, as possible. Lexan shields may be used in cafeterias. Students will be assigned to tables in the event contact tracing is necessary. Students in grades K-6 can eat breakfast and snacks in the classroom as long as students are seated at least three feet apart. While masks are not worn while eating, they should be worn while in line for food. Prearranged meal trays will no longer be used; we are returning to student choice. Expect slightly longer lunch lines until students adjust to this new route.

## ATTENDANCE

The district attendance policy remains in effect for all students. Students learning remotely will be monitored for engagement and attendance in live, synchronous lessons. All students must meet district residency requirements, regardless of learning model.






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## VISITORS

Visitation will be limited during September unless allowed by a principal. Outside groups are not allowed to use district facilities at least through September. Visitors and building use policies will be revisited with the hope of restoring essential visits and school activities, such as PTO-hosted events, in October. For this to happen, we will need to avoid COVID clusters in our buildings. Guidelines for building-specific events at the beginning of the year such as orientation and open houses will be communicated by the building principals.

## CHILD CARE

Rush-Henrietta's Cub Care program is available to provide care for students in grades K-6 before and after school. All the same health and safety guidelines will be followed during this program.

H I G H L I G H T S		Students will attend classes full time according to the approved district calendar. RLA students will follow the same start and end times as their in-person peers.
		Reporting of daily screening is not required. Students and employees should self-monitor and stay home if there are signs of illness.
		Face coverings will be required indoors and on buses. Masking will be re-evaluated after the start of the school year.
		All classrooms and common areas will be cleaned and disinfected daily. High-touch areas of buses will be wiped down after each bus run.
		Buses will operate at normal capacity. Windows will be left open for air circulation when the outside temperature is at least 40°.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Rush-Henrietta remains committed to pursuing the district priority of equity and inclusion as we strive to meet the needs of all families during this challenging time. The social-emotional needs of our students and staff will remain at the forefront as we make a full return to the classroom.

**We look forward to welcoming our students back to school in September!**