

REOPENING RUSH-HENRIETTA

SPRING 2021

As the Rush-Henrietta Central School District contemplated reopening for the 2020-2021 school year in the wake of COVID-19, district leaders prepared a reopening plan using guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, New York State Department of Health, New York State Education Department, Monroe County Department of Health, and the Reopening Rush-Henrietta task force. The latter group, led by the superintendent, includes parents, Board of Education members, instructional and non-instructional staff, administrators, and bargaining-unit leaders. This group met again in March 2021 to discuss reopening our schools more fully for hybrid students in grades K-12.

MORE IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION FOR HYBRID STUDENTS

We believe Rush-Henrietta has a moral obligation to students and families to reopen its doors. Our goal is to bring hybrid students back to campus for in-person instruction four days a week in spring 2021. This will take a special effort on the part of everyone - students, parents, and employees. As a reminder, students in the Remote Learning Academy will remain in that program through June 2021 because of the complexities involved in developing new student schedules and staffing assignments.

This continues to be an emotional and anxiety-inducing time for everyone in our school community, and we recognize the stress that reopening - in any form - places on our students, families, and employees. It is important that we balance the risks of COVID-19 with the harm from continued school closure, which is impacting physical and mental health.

As we plan for hybrid students to attend in person four days a week, the health and safety of students, families, and staff members remain of the utmost importance. The infection rate, spread of the virus, and the response to it in our region remains 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 many measures will be put in place to minimize these risks for all. Mitigation of these risks, while allowing some level of a return to school, will be needed for the foreseeable future. So, too, will be the support of our community.

School districts statewide are reopening this spring to different degrees, knowing that this is a constantly evolving situation. The plans we create now and hope to implement in spring 2021 are subject to change at any time based on new guidance and directives from the state and county.

WHAT FAMILIES CAN EXPECT IN SPRING 2021

Rush-Henrietta is prioritizing efforts to give hybrid students an increased level of in-person instruction, with the goal of offering four on-campus instructional days each week. Because of the need to use physical distancing, the district has developed a plan that allows hybrid students at all grade levels to attend school four days a week. Hybrid students will continue to follow their at-home learning schedule on Wednesdays.

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ESTABLISHING CLIMATE OF SAFETY, COMFORT, AND ROUTINE

During the first few weeks of a more full return to school, teachers and building administrators will review health and safety protocols with all hybrid students. Processes will be put in place to maximize instruction while, at the same time, prioritizing the health and well-being of students and staff. Our instructional and mental health staff will work collaboratively to focus on social-emotional and mental health support for students, whether they are learning in-person or remotely. Staff will work with our students to establish new norms and routines.

KEEPING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY SAFE

Rush-Henrietta will continue to follow the enhanced cleaning protocols that have been in use for the past year. For example, we use backpack, high-efficiency, electrostatic sanitizers that allow us to disinfect all classrooms, hallways, and common areas each night after the regular cleaning is complete. In addition, we use compact compressor foggers for each bus. Drivers use these to disinfect buses at the end of each shift.

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

Busing will be available for all hybrid students. Each student must wear a facial covering while riding on a Rush-Henrietta bus. We continue to encourage families that are able to provide transportation for their child to and from school to do so.

In compliance with New York State Education Department guidance, Rush-Henrietta will raise the capacity of our buses from 30 to 44 students. This means buses will run at a maximum of two-thirds capacity. When students board, they will sit in an unoccupied seat. Once each seat has been filled, students may be instructed to sit with a friend or neighbor. This will be done only if parents gave permission for seat-sharing on our recent survey. We anticipate that students who sit in a seat with another child will do so for a maximum of 20 minutes, as this doubling process would begin toward the end of the ride. Supplemental face shields will be offered to all students who share a seat.






MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE

For additional information, please visit www.rhnet.org/reopenFAQ.






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HYBRID MODEL

Rush-Henrietta is prioritizing efforts this spring to give hybrid students an increased level of in-person instruction. The health and safety of students, families, and staff members remain of the utmost importance. Because of the continued need for physical distancing, the district has developed an approach that allows hybrid students at all grade levels to attend school four days a week. Students will follow their at-home learning schedule on Wednesdays.

H I G H L I G H T S		Hybrid students will attend school in-person four days each week, and follow their at-home learning schedule on Wednesdays. The goal is to provide more face-to-face instructional time.
		The Raptor daily screening tool will continue to be required. This screening must be completed each school day by parents/guardians. Students should not be sent to school without this being done.
		Face coverings will be required any time appropriate distancing can't be maintained. This includes buses and hallways.
		All classrooms and common areas will be cleaned and disinfected daily. Additional cleaning will be done on Wednesdays.
		Buses will operate at a reduced capacity to allow for distancing. There will be a maximum of two students per seat. Students living in the same household are encouraged to sit together.

HYBRID SCHEDULE FOR GRADES K-12

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 SCHOOL	 SCHOOL		 SCHOOL	 SCHOOL

Rush-Henrietta remains committed to pursuing the district priority of equity and inclusion as we strive to meet the complex needs of our families during this challenging time. In addition, the social-emotional needs of our students and staff remains a top priority as we contemplate a broader return to school.

It is our intent to welcome all Rush-Henrietta students back to school in September!