

August 2020

Dear Rensselaer Families,

The faculty and staff of Rensselaer Junior/Senior High School is excited to welcome our students to the 2020-2021 school year! This year is going to be unlike any other and we appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate these uncharted waters. We have worked hard to prepare a plan that will maintain the necessary focus on health and safety while providing an opportunity for our students to engage with in-person instruction.

The 2020-2021 School year will begin on **Tuesday September 8, 2020**. The school day will begin at 7:30 AM and conclude at 2:30 PM. Students will be separated into two cohorts by location for bus runs. Students who are “walkers” will be used to even out the cohort. This will ensure we can accommodate half the students in the classrooms. Cohort 1 will engage in in-person learning the week of September 8th while Cohort 2 will engage in remote learning. The next week, Cohort 2 will engage in in-person learning the week of September 14th while Cohort 1 will engage in remote learning. This will alternate every week. Students will attend in person on their designated week, Monday through Thursday. Fridays will be remote learning days for all students as the building goes through extensive cleaning.

All students taking a bus will have a temperature check before boarding the bus. Students not taking the bus will have a temperature check upon entering the school building. Breakfast will be available to students as they enter the building to take and bring directly to their first class. Students will not be using lockers. There will be one-way traffic flow on either side of the hallway. Staircases will be designated for either up or down. Students will not attend eight periods as they have previously, they will attend four block (double) periods per day. This will allow for only three transitions throughout the day. Lunch will be delivered to rooms and students will eat in the classroom during their 3rd block each day. Students will receive core classes and specials during this process.

Regular Block Schedule 4 classes per day

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
7:35-9:12	Period 1 A	Period 3 A	Period 1 B	Period 3 B
9:15-10:50	Period 2 A	Period 4 A	Period 2 B	Period 4 B
10:53-12:52 (includes lunch)	Period 5 A	Period 7 A	Period 5 B	Period 7 B
12:55-2:30	Period 6 A	Period 8 A	Period 6 B	Period 8 B

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
7:35-9:12	Period 1 C	Period 3 C	Period 1 D	Period 3 D
9:15-10:50	Period 2 C	Period 4 C	Period 2 D	Period 4 D
10:53-12:52 (includes lunch)	Period 5 C	Period 7 C	Period 5 D	Period 7 D
12:55-2:30	Period 6 C	Period 8 C	Period 6 D	Period 8 D

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
7:35-9:12	Period 1 E	Period 3 E	Period 1 F	Period 3 F
9:15-10:50	Period 2 E	Period 4 E	Period 2 F	Period 4 F
10:53-12:52 (includes lunch)	Period 5 E	Period 7 E	Period 5 F	Period 7 F
12:55-2:30	Period 6 E	Period 8 E	Period 6 F	Period 8 F

Remote learners are expected to log on to google meet with their classes four times per day. The times will be the same for grades 7-12 (7:45 AM, 9:25 AM, 11:45AM, and 1:05PM). These times are subject to change. Teachers will be taking attendance and students will be expected to attend. Specials may have different

attendance requirements. If a student is home sick, he/she should attend the remote instruction and receive attendance credit for the day. The weeks and days will be listed on the school calendar. These times will remain in place for all students if there is ever a need for full remote instruction.

Students in grades 5-12 will [receive chromebooks](#). Our main platform will be Google Classroom for assignments and Google Meet for virtual classes and meetings. Teachers will be in contact with students to assign the remote classes they must attend. Our faculty and staff is committed to supporting our students during this process. Be assured, we will work with the students and help with any problems that may arise. Remote learners should receive correspondence from their teachers on Google Classroom and email to set up these classes on September 3rd and 4th. Please check your email.

Communication this year will be primarily through email. Please make sure your information is up to date. If you have questions, please call the office (518-436-8561) or reference the reopening plan on the [district website](#).

Expectations for All Students:

All students will need to wear a mask or face covering while on the bus, transitioning in the hallway, or whenever social distancing is not able to be maintained. Presently, the reopening plan indicates that students will not be required to wear masks during instruction and when they are eating as long as they are socially distanced. Students may be required to wear masks based on different circumstances and when around immunocompromised individuals.

All students will need to go through health screening before boarding the bus and upon arriving to school if they are walkers or are dropped off. Students with a fever of 100 degrees or higher will not be allowed on the bus or in school. Please take your child's temperature before school to avoid any potential inconvenience that may result from your child not passing the protocols.

Students will not be using lockers.

Students are expected to have their chromebooks with them, fully charged each day.

Morning Drop-Off/Walkers

Students walking to school will enter through the auditorium entrance doors. School staff will be located outside to conduct the health screening.

Students are not to arrive at school prior to the designated start time. Staff members will be in the designated locations until 7:45. If you arrive after this time, please enter the security vestibule where the health screening will take place. Do not leave the area until the screening has been passed. Please remember the official start to the day is 7:30.

Other Reminders:

Please call Mr. Foust at [436-8561](tel:436-8561) (extension 8126) if your child will be absent from school. He/She can attend the remote session and it will not count as an absence. **NYS law requires a written excuse for each absence.**

As a reminder, all parents and visitors must sign in upon entering the building. Only parents and visitors with an appointment will be permitted into the building. This is increasingly important to maintain a healthy and safe environment under the present circumstances. We will again be using our Raptor Visitor Management System. If you did not register with your license or other identification last year, you will need to do so this year to have access to the building.

Please enjoy the rest of your summer and stay safe. We look forward to seeing you in September!

Sincerely,

Dominick Pitaniello
Jr-Sr High School Principal