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Date: August 12

To: Parents, Students, and Staff

The Rock Ridge Public School District is planning on 100% in-person schooling for students. The Minnesota State Legislature has ruled that online distance learning is not an option for entire buildings and student bodies.

Because the number of COVID-19 cases is increasing, it is possible that we may be required to change our procedures to match the reality of the external environment. Consequently, our plan may be in flux, depending on direction given by the Minnesota Department of Education, Minnesota Department of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or other governing body. Be ready for our procedures to change.

Important information for staff, parents, and students:

- We recommend that all students and staff, ages 12 and older, follow the CDC guidelines for vaccinations and get a vaccination. This is one of the best ways to prevent COVID-19 outbreaks and keep our students in school all year. And we want our students to remain in school.
- Students and staff will not be required to wear masks. Instead, we will recommend that students and staff wear a mask, especially for those with medical conditions which may make them susceptible to variations of COVID-19 or those who are unvaccinated.
- All students and staff who are riding on a school bus must wear a mask. This is a federal requirement.
- Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to follow the quarantine and isolation procedures of the Minnesota Department of Health. This means that after 10 days of quarantine, they may return to the classroom if they are symptom free and if they have not had a fever without medication during the last 24 hours.
- Any students or staff who show symptoms of COVID-19 will be sent home immediately and will be required to quarantine for 10 days. Any students or staff with a negative PCR test or note from a physician with an alternative diagnosis will be allowed back in the school buildings. Siblings who are asymptomatic (don't have symptoms) will not be sent home and will not be required to quarantine. Any students sent home to quarantine will have school assignments made available to them and will be expected to continue their education.
- We will continue to pursue contact tracing on all positive cases. Parents will be contacted if any of their children has direct contact with a positive case and will be asked to monitor their child daily. We will also monitor their child for symptoms, indicating they might have COVID-19. If your children have no symptoms, they may continue attending school on a daily basis. We do recommend masking for 14 days after contact exposure if a student is not going to quarantine or be tested.
- We will try to keep the quarantine period of time to a minimum recommendation from the Minnesota Department of Health. However, if COVID-19 cases escalate quickly, this could change.
- We continue to recommend that parents drive their children to school, if possible. Or that older students drive themselves to school or get a ride with someone else. This will keep the numbers of individuals on the bus to a minimum and help with creating more space between riders.
- Additionally, Rock Ridge will:
  - continue to offer hand sanitizers in key locations for student and staff use.
  - continue to space out students as much as possible in a room.
  - regularly clean high-touch areas.
- Look for additional information, including the starting and ending times of the school day, to be forthcoming from your building principals.

Looking forward to a fantastic school year!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Noel Schmidt".

Dr. Noel Schmidt  
Superintendent  
Rock Ridge Public Schools

