

Dear Families,

I just want to take a moment to welcome you back to school for the 2020-2021 school year! Although it is not the typical start to school due to COVID and the necessary changes, we are excited to get going! I want to assure you that we have taken precautionary measures in all aspects to create a safe learning environment for your children. I know that there are a lot of questions about what school will look like this year. Whether you choose in-person instruction or remote/online learning, Ruder staff is here to support you and your children. I want to break down what it will look like for both of these options. I have outlined some of the major changes for both options below.

IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION:

- Bus transportation: students and drivers will be required to wear a mask during their bus ride. Attendance will be taken on the bus and families will be assigned to sit together. No more than 50 students will be on a bus together.
- Upon arrival at school there will be a quick health screening for temperature by our school nurse/nurse aid. If a child becomes sick at school, we will have an area for them to rest and call family to come pick them up. If a child has a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, they must stay home until they are fever free for 24 hours without medication to reduce the fever.
- At the beginning of the school year, upon arrival, K-2 teachers will be outside to meet you and your child and bring them to the classroom. Please look for a sign with your child's teacher's name on it.
- Parents will not be allowed in the school both in the morning and at pick-up. The front doors will be locked and you will be able to visit with the secretary through an intercom if you need to drop something off. Parents in the building will be very limited with entrance for meetings allowed. The less people in the building will help ensure the safety of our students and staff.
- Breakfast and before school recess will be in the classroom. Children should not be coming to school before 8:00 unless other arrangements have been made. We do not have staff available to screen/supervise them until that time. Students who ride, walk, or get dropped off will use the front doors to enter the building. Bus riders will use the bus doors. As students arrive, they will grab breakfast in the gym (if eating at school), and go straight to their assigned classroom.
- Parents will have the availability to do a quick screening at home through an App that will be provided at a later date. More information on this will be coming when it is available.
- We will have recess outside during the school day in grade level blocks. Outside recess is very important for students and their success at school. Equipment will be sanitized throughout the day.
- Lunch will be served in the classrooms to maintain physical distancing.
- The CF School Board and Governor have mandated masks inside the building when social distancing is not feasible. Students will be required to wear a mask in common

areas (hallways, bus, entering and exiting building, and restrooms) Cloth face masks or surgical masks are the best option and we recommend those to minimize the amount of droplets. However, other face coverings such as gators, buffs, and bandanas are allowed. Students will have guided mask breaks when physical distance is adequate. Every student will also have their own clear shield on their desk/table to provide added safety measures.

- Dismissal times will be a little different to help with crowd control. All K-2 students being picked up or those that walk will be dismissed at 3:15 along with any students who need bus transportation to the Boys and Girls Club. Teachers will have a designated spot outside for you to pick up your child. Older siblings will be dismissed at the same time and meet you at the younger child's spot. The rest of the students who walk or who are being picked up will be dismissed at 3:20 and bus students will be dismissed at 3:25.
- We will continue to provide "specials" to students: PE, library, and music.
- Special Services for students with specific needs and disabilities will be available just as they were in the past.

REMOTE/ONLINE LEARNING:

- Students will receive instruction through a variety of remote learning resources: online interactive tools, streaming live into a classroom of students, google meets, recorded lessons, and paper and pencil.
- Students will be expected to participate in virtual classrooms with teachers and other students scheduled during the week and class day.
- Students will be issued a chromebook device if needed. Internet access will be the responsibility of the household.
- Google Classroom will be the platform for all students to receive and complete assignments.
- Remote teachers will communicate expectations and have office hours for individual questions.
- Standards based grading will be implemented for remote learning for grades K-5.
- Special Services for students with specific needs and disabilities.

Miscellaneous:

- Students will not be able to use drinking fountains. Water bottles will be allowed. Students need to bring a personal water bottle each day. Filling stations will be available, but it would be great if your student could come to school with their bottle filled to start the day.
- Students will not be sharing items and will have personal space to keep their own belongings.

- All areas of the building will have flow patterns that students will learn. Physical distancing will be practiced as much as possible. Floor marking will help with travel patterns and distancing.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be placed throughout the building. Students will be encouraged to use them throughout the day. Other procedures will be taught to students to try and provide the safest environment possible.

Open House:

- Unfortunately, we will not be able to conduct an in person open house this year. We will be doing virtual tours that will be posted on our school website. More information will come at a later date once the videos have been posted.
- We will be having a “parent university” to provide assistance to parents and students regarding our online learning platforms that we will be using this year. These will be used in the classroom and remotely when needed. Videos will be created to show some of our major procedures as well, such as entering the building.

We do not enjoy having to place these restrictions and requirements on our students, families, and staff. However, to mitigate the spread of COVID and provide the safest environment possible, these measures need to be implemented and practiced. I am confident, even though our school year is starting off different, we will have an incredibly positive and successful year! Please feel free to call me anytime if you have other questions. I can be reached at 892-6570. Thank you all for your amazing support during these difficult times.

Warm regards,

Mrs. Krueger