



RIVERHEAD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Integrity • Creativity • Respect

Riverhead Central School District

2021-2022 School Year

Opening Plan





RIVERHEAD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Integrity • Creativity • Respect

## **Riverhead Central School District**

### **Our Mission**

**Riverhead Central School District is to inspire and academically empower all students to become tomorrow's leaders by: developing their unique gifts and potential; providing an environment that fosters integrity, creativity, and respect; and, ensuring that our students become successful, contributing citizens in a global community.**



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Dear Blue Wave Families,

Providing a high-quality education for all students has always been our focus. As we prepare to return to school, maintaining this mission is of our highest priority.

School districts throughout New York State learned that the New York State Department of Health would not be providing reopening guidance for schools this coming school year. We were instructed to develop our plans for in-person instruction at the local government level. The New York State Education Department released guidance that was in line with the CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations for masks/social distancing. The district's plan is aligned with that guidance. This document outlines our clear plan for opening and a framework with guidelines for navigating through the upcoming school year.

The Riverhead Central School District will welcome ALL students back for in-person learning on Thursday, September 2, 2021. Schools will return to pre-COVID schedules, including arrival and dismissal times and bell transitions. Frequent hand washing and use of sanitizer will be encouraged. Schools will maintain three feet of social distancing where possible, including in the music content areas. Schools will require all students and staff to wear masks for all indoor instruction and activities. This includes bus transportation. Masks will NOT be required for outdoor activities.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all students back to in-person learning this September. As we continue to address the challenges of COVID-19, our decisions will be grounded in advice from medical professionals, by monitoring of the local infection rate and additional guidance provided by NYSED. We are following all changes closely so that sound decisions are made for a successful return in September and throughout the upcoming school year. Your cooperation and partnership is greatly appreciated. Enjoy the remainder of your summer.

Sincerely,

Dr. Augustine E. Tornatore  
Superintendent of Schools



# RIVERHEAD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## 2021-2022 DISTRICT OPENING GOAL

**The RCSD plans to open our schools this September with the purpose of providing our students and staff with a healthy and safe learning environment to the greatest extent possible. By working together, we will strive for a return to the innovative, high-quality practices that our students deserve.**

### OPENING GUIDANCE

The District will maintain safety protocols established by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC); the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH); the District's Medical Director; and the Suffolk County Department of Health (SCDOH).

The District will:

- Maintain communication with all local and state authorities
- Participate in contact tracing as required by state and local authorities, and
- Isolate and disinfect any impacted classrooms and spaces
- Monitor and adjust protocols as conditions change throughout the school year

NYSDOH, The State Education Department (SED) and the SCDOH have advised school districts to follow the CDC guidelines and work in conjunction with their District's Medical Director for the opening of schools regarding COVID-19 protocols. [Click here to review the Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools.](#)

- **If transmission levels rise**, our schools will be prepared for all contingencies which may include increasing physical distancing to minimize transmission.
- **If transmission levels decline**, our schools will be prepared to remove mask requirements and other COVID-19 procedures and protocols.



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## General Guidelines - A Framework for Success

1. All students will return to school in person. There will be no remote learning.
2. All students and staff will wear masks while inside any building. Masks will be optional outdoors.
3. Eating areas will have students spaced apart more than six feet.
4. Staff will remain three feet apart from students when masked.
5. Periodic mask breaks will be provided in school.
6. Students and staff are encouraged to spend time outside while learning on school grounds, weather permitting.
7. Dampers will remain open throughout the year to provide fresh air in the buildings.
8. All spaces will be cleaned on an ongoing basis as was done during the previous school year.

**Masks** - As recommended by the CDC, students, staff and visitors are required to wear masks while indoors. Exceptions may be made during scheduled mask breaks and while eating lunch. Masks can be provided by the district, but staff and students are encouraged to bring their own to school. Masks are not required outdoors.

**Social Distancing** - Social distancing of three feet is a priority while students and staff are inside the school. Six feet is required during indoor physical education activity, music classes involving singing or wind instruments, and while eating lunch.

**Close Contacts and Quarantining** - School districts must continue to report positive cases of COVID-19 to SCDOH. All individuals who test positive for COVID-19 must remain in isolation for 10 days from date of symptom onset or test date if asymptomatic.

Consistent with the CDC exception, in the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within three to six feet of an infected student (laboratory confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) **if both students correctly and consistently wore wellfitting masks the entire time.**

This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting. Fully vaccinated persons who have come into close contact with someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should be tested 3-5 days after exposure.

Close contacts of positive cases of COVID-19 which do not fall in the exception detailed above must quarantine for 10 days and monitor symptoms through the 14th day. They should continue to wear a mask indoors for 14 days after the exposure or until their test result is negative. For individuals who are not fully vaccinated, quarantining may be necessary after an exposure. The close contact should be quarantined for 10 days after a known exposure. They have the option to shorten that timeframe to 7 days if they receive a negative test result. The test must occur on day 5 or later after the exposure.

**Lunch** - Six feet of social distancing is required while students are eating lunch. Schools will use the cafeteria and any additional spaces available (i.e., classrooms, all-purpose rooms, gyms) to accomplish this requirement. Eating outdoors will be encouraged when possible.

**Protocols for Visitors** - Visitors will be allowed in our schools, and they will complete the same health screening required of our employees. Visitors will be required to wear a mask while indoors.

**Open House & Large Gatherings** - We will make all attempts to avoid large gatherings indoors where social distancing is not possible. Open house, concerts and performances are to be determined.

**Teaching and Learning** - As the new school year begins, our faculty and staff's main priority will be to focus on the social and emotional wellbeing of our students. Significant time will be spent on ensuring the transition back to school for all students is a successful one. We recognize that the social emotional well-being of our students and staff during these challenging times is critically important. The District has made available resources and referrals to address mental health, behavioral, and emotional needs of students and staff when school opens for in-person instruction.

Following CDC and American Association of Pediatrics (AAP) guidance that prioritizes in-person instruction, the District will not offer Select and/or Hybrid Remote Learning Model options. If a student is absent for a mandatory quarantine reason as directed by the Suffolk County Department of Health for an extended period of time, the school will arrange instructional support with the student and family. Students in grades K-12 will be offered opportunities for learning via Google Classroom and work may be sent home. Other modalities customized to meet grade level and individual student needs may be used.

Identifying and addressing learning gaps will also be a priority. We will utilize a variety of assessments to determine academic areas in need of attention and develop support plans tailored to students' specific needs. Diagnostic assessments will provide teachers with the data needed to

drive instructional practices and content. Formative assessments will allow for content to be adjusted and differentiated accordingly.

Grading practices will follow a standards-based framework designed to provide direct feedback regarding students' mastery of course content.

### **Transportation**

- Buses will be sanitized frequently and consistently
- All bus occupants will be required to wear masks.
- Parents will be encouraged to place masks on elementary students and sanitize their hands before the students board the bus.
- Every bus will have PPE supplies available.
- Bus windows and roof hatches will be kept open weather permitting.

**Athletics, Clubs, Activities** - The RCSD plans to have all in person with the following considerations: The status of athletics for the 2021-22 school year will be defined by local and agency guidelines.

- All athletics and school activities will resume in the fall as of now.
- On-going consideration will be given to issues that include: transportation of teams, use of locker rooms, the use of masks, the use and care of equipment and the planning for large events with multiple schools.
- Meeting size for clubs and activities will be continuously reviewed.
- The District will continuously review all field trips and activities
- The District will continuously monitor clubs and activities which interact with outside agencies and or facilities.