

EST. 1875

RCLS



Rochester Central Lutheran School
PRESCHOOL-GRADE 8

COVID
CONTINGENCY
PLAN
OVERVIEW



2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

June 2020

July 2020, updated



GRACE. FAITH. *LEARNING FOR LIFE.*

At school. At home. For always.



While RCLS's typical practices and procedures may see some temporary changes, we are encouraged by the reality that *these changes are, indeed, temporary*, and ultimately, the principles that underlie an RCLS education remain the same. The cornerstones of what we know and love about RCLS are in place whether our students are learning at school or at home.

Core Principles

We will continue to partner with parents to raise kids who are *Grounded in **Grace**, Formed in **Faith**, and **Committed to Learning for Life***. These principles inform whom we are, what we do, and how we do it.

Curriculum

RCLS will implement a rigorous curriculum that meets or exceeds grade-level state standards. This curriculum is the basis for all instruction and activities. We will continue to prioritize Foundational Learning, Individualized Instruction, and a Whole-child Emphasis.

Community

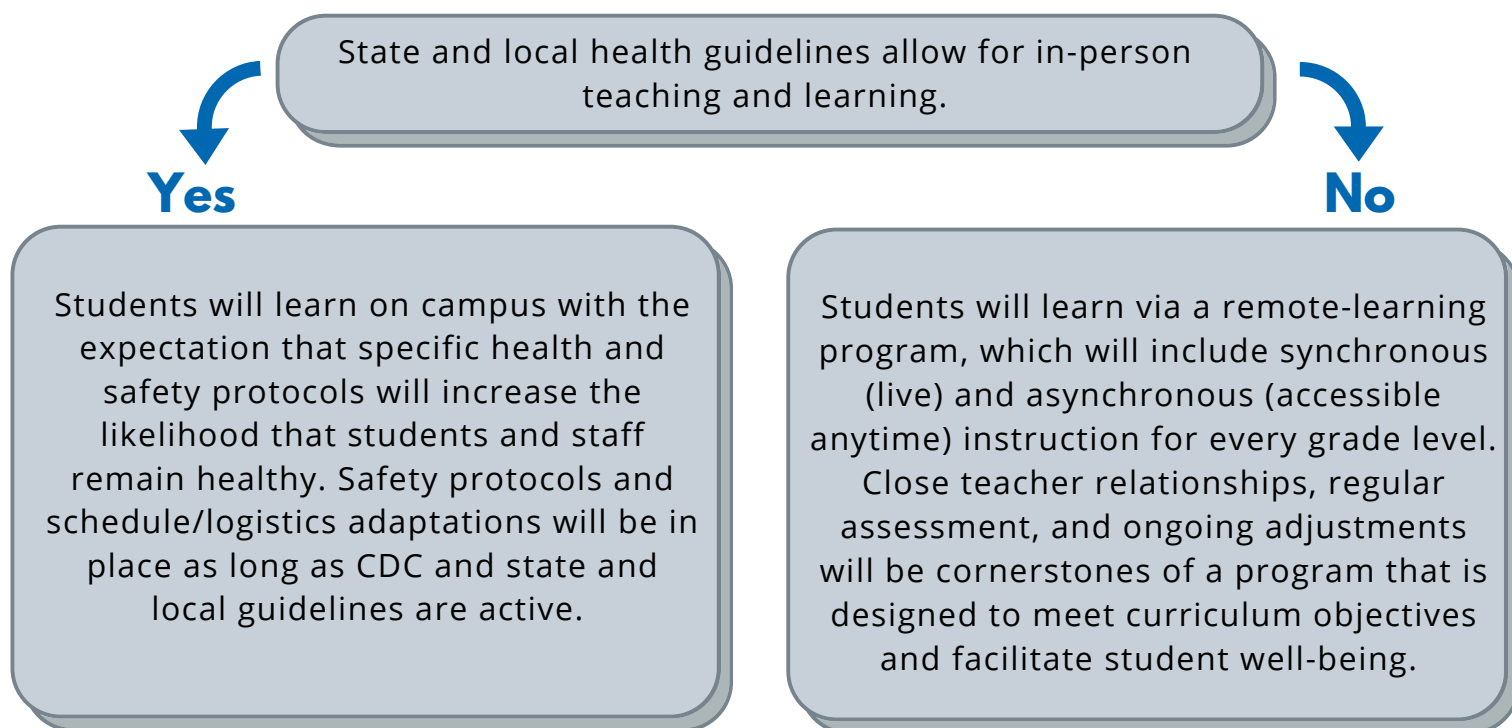
The value of a supportive learning community cannot be overstated. While we must practice some safety measures that make our usual social interactions safer, we will persist in our priority of community. This means we are committed to socialization and support in-person and in remote contexts while we await the time we again can enjoy the "normal" activities that characterize our community life.



THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

RCLS assembled an Advisory Team consisting of a physician and a pediatric specialist, school board members, faculty, and staff to develop a learning plan and safety protocols for the 2020-21 school year. We are preparing for both in-person and remote learning and will follow the lead of state and local officials, accordingly. In addition, we are planning for the possibility of limited, individual situations in which family members in a high-risk category would require a family to need a 100% remote-learning situation until a COVID-19 vaccine is available.*

Whether instruction is delivered in-person or in a remote context, we will plan to implement a curriculum-informed learning program that will ensure spiritual and instructional continuity for all RCLS students over the course of the upcoming school year.



At this time, RCLS is not anticipating having to stagger start times or alternate in-person days, even if public districts in southeast Minnesota have such a model in place. Spacious RCLS classrooms and relatively small class sizes allow us to maintain recommended social distances without limiting in-person attendance to particular times or days.

If the risk for infection in Olmsted County rises so that distance learning is recommended for secondary students (the 4th level of the MN Safe Learning Plan parameters), we will reserve the possibility that some of our students--perhaps middle-school students--would move to a distance learning model while our younger students remain in-person. We will cautiously consider that possibility in consultation with the county health department and local medical professionals.

* For those students or immediate family members with conditions that predispose them to being considered "high risk," a note from their personal medical provider will be required to be submitted to the school for consideration of full-time remote learning.

IN-PERSON LEARNING: *Programming*

The RCLS Advisory Team is working to establish modifications and protocols that will create a baseline level of safety for RCLS students, faculty, and staff to return to campus in August 2020. The school community will follow specific health and safety precautions determined by CDC guidelines, the Minnesota Departments of Education and Health, Olmsted County Health Department, and Mayo Clinic. Current assumptions and considerations inform this preliminary plan. As public health guidelines are updated, specific plans will be finalized.



The school calendar will likely remain the same.

If opportunities arise to align elements of the calendar with emerging public health developments and guidance, we will consider them carefully and communicate any changes with as much advanced notice as possible.



Arrival and departure procedures will minimize risk.

Arrival and dismissal will likely be conducted utilizing all three entry doors at the front of the school and the ECDC playground entrance. Parents will remain in their vehicles during drop-off and pick-up for PS-8 students. Student temperatures will be taken upon arrival, then students will proceed to their classrooms or the health office. Stepping Stones and POST will be available for PS-8 students.



Lunch will be available, although served in a different format.

Students will eat in our generously sized cafeteria, with greater spacing between each classroom cohort, or in classrooms.



Students in grades preschool – grade 5 will learn in stable groupings with the same teacher throughout each day.

We are planning instructional scenarios that keep each classroom cohort with one teacher who is leading all of the main subject areas. Students in grades 6-8 will have a variety of instructors. With most classes, the instructors will move to meet the students rather than the students moving to the instructor.



School-day and extracurricular programs and events will be modified.

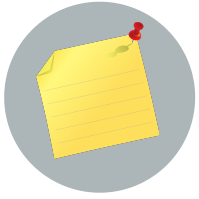
School programs and events will be modified to comply with limits on group sizes, location, and event duration.



After-school programming will likely be offered.

After school programs such as Drama, Lego Club, Art Club, and more will likely occur with smaller groups of students meeting at one time. RCLS will provide Athletic team opportunities as we are able per state and local guidelines.

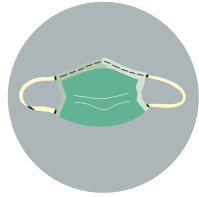
IN-PERSON LEARNING: *Campus Protocols*



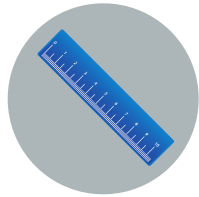
Requirements for **health monitoring** for students and staff will be upheld, including a protocol to notify families of any student who comes into contact with a student, staff member, or teacher who tests positive for COVID-19.



In order to decrease the likelihood of potential exposure, **campus access** will be limited for visitors and parents until guidelines suggest Covid risk is sufficiently decreased.



Face masks and/or face shields will be worn in class and in hallways by all students and staff. "Mask breaks" will be provided in outdoor spaces throughout the day.



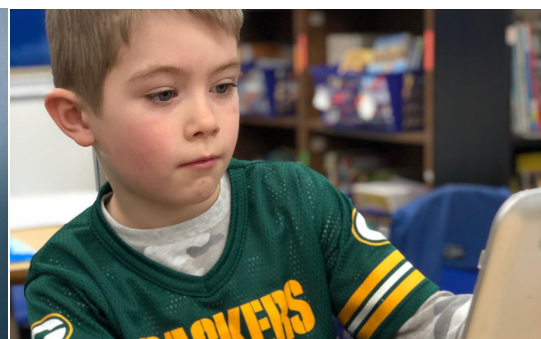
Capacity limits will preserve **social distancing**--approximately 6'--in all campus spaces.



Ongoing use of remote learning tools and communication platforms will be implemented to ensure a smooth transition should remote learning be necessary for a period of time.



Rigorous cleaning protocols will be implemented for each area of the campus to ensure furniture, surfaces, and materials remain sanitized.



REMOTE LEARNING

If state and local officials determine that public health makes remote-learning period is necessary at some point in the 2020-21 school year, RCLS will be ready to implement it. RCLS faculty and staff are committed to supporting a transition to Remote Learning effectively and ensuring instructional, emotional, and spiritual continuity for all students.

Based on Spring 2020 parent-survey data and faculty and staff input, RCLS will move forward with the following assurances should we need to move to a Remote Learning model at any point during the upcoming school year:

- ▶ *The daily use of both synchronous and asynchronous instruction.*
- ▶ *Prioritizing student wellness through Biblical teaching and academic excellence, chapel, physical education, music, art, Spanish, and social-emotional learning.*
- ▶ *Careful scheduling of class sessions and assignments to ensure that students will have ample opportunities to learn and recharge, serving the needs of the whole child and balancing school and life.*

RCLS will utilize these digital platforms to facilitate a seamless and effective experience with Remote Learning:



See Saw (P-3)

An online application for students in our ECDC classrooms and kindergarten through 3rd grades. Students can see personalized assignments, view video lessons, and upload evidence of their learning in many ways including picture, writing, videos, and audio. Teachers can provide direct feedback.



Google Meets/Hangouts (P-8)

These applications allow for communication between students and teachers. Hangouts is a chat application, allowing one-to-one conversations. This also allows video communication between a student and a teacher. Google Meets are live video conferences that can be used for group communication and live instruction.



Google Classroom (4-8)

This application has been used at RCLS for many years. Students and teachers manage assignments, work in several Google applications, and engage in discussions. All class assignments, videos, and announcements are posted here, along with links to Google Calendar and unique links to Google Meet live classes.



Flipgrid (6-8)

This is a social-learning platform in which students share short videos in response to a prompt like a photo or video. This tool allows students to asynchronously share their thoughts and learning with classmates and teachers, even when they are at a distance.