

**RED HOOK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
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July 31, 2020

Dear Red Hook Community,

Today we submitted our Reopening Plan for the Red Hook Central School District (RHCS D) to the New York State Education Department. As you know, Governor Cuomo requested all school districts in NYS create an individualized reopening plan. The plan we submitted today is designed to comply with state guidelines, as well as provide a road map for reopening our four schools in our district this September. The link for the plan is provided below. It outlines a detailed description of all aspects of reopening. We will continue to work in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH) and New York State Education Department (NYSED), as well as the Center for Disease Control (CDC). As noted in the plan, this document is by necessity subject to revision as guidance changes. As a school community we are committed to providing a high-quality education to all students as well as a safe environment for everybody in the school and larger community.

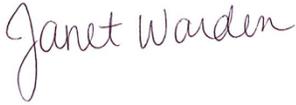
RHCS D is known as one of the finest in New York State for its excellent learning environment and superior staff. This level of excellence will continue to be the case as we approach an unprecedented school year. I have been impressed in my time here with the commitment of teachers, staff, families, and the Red Hook community, which has responded to this crisis with strength and support.

Specific individual class schedules will be released as soon as possible. Please note that at this time we are planning for two possible reopening scenarios: one; a “hybrid” reopening with smaller in-school classes, and alternating days/or half days; and two; a fully remote reopening. As with most educational institutions in our county, a full reopening, with 100% capacity is not possible at this time, while maintaining social distancing requirements. Should conditions allow, we will open fully, and return to normal schedules and routines. This will be a relief to all of us.

Lastly, we acknowledge that our plan has significant impact on families as well as our students, and we will be working hard in the weeks ahead to address these needs and provide as much support as possible. We will continue to seek partnerships in the community. We welcome all input and ideas as we face the challenges ahead. We are dedicated to open and consistent communication with families. Please expect further details and information as we approach the school year. We have created a specific email for questions and suggestions regarding the reopening plan, it is [covid@rhcsd.org](mailto:covid@rhcsd.org). Also included in the plan is a list of contact people in the district.

Our reopening plan is flexible and fluid. We do expect changes based on guidelines and needs of the communities. We await a decision by Governor Cuomo by, or around, August 7, 2020 on reopening schools. We appreciate your support and patience; these are very complex decisions with many variables to consider.

Respectfully,



Janet Warden, Superintendent



Kate Kortbus, BOE President

**HERE IS THE LINK TO THE FULL PLAN ON THE RHCS D WEBSITE:**

<https://www.redhookcentralschools.org/domain/551>

**HIGHLIGHTS OF RHCS D REOPENING PLAN:**

**Health and Safety**

In order to maintain health and safety of staff, teachers, students of RHCS D, and the larger community, and comply with State requirements, the measures outlined here and in the reopening plan, will be put in place. As described in the report, these protocols are mandatory and will be enforced in order to ensure the health of our school and larger community. Strict compliance will be essential, and school officials will work closely with families and students to educate and support these protective measures.

1. Masks are required for all staff and students. Masks may be provided and must be worn throughout the school day. There will be times set aside for students to take mask breaks as directed by a responsible adult and only if they are social distanced.
2. Parents must fill out an online-form every morning to self-screen for COVID symptoms. If the form is not filled out, students will be given a temperature check prior to entering building.
3. Classrooms will be set up for social distancing, 6 feet apart.
4. Frequent, regular hand washing will be encouraged throughout the school day, and additional hand sanitizer stations are being installed.
5. Specific procedures and protocols will be in place for suspected and confirmed cases of COVID. We will work in collaboration with Department of Health on contact tracing and returning to school.

**Facilities**

Specific cleaning and disinfecting protocols will be in place. Signage will be provided for social distancing, hand washing and personal hygiene. Our systems will be modified to increase fresh air flow and circulation in all buildings.

## **School Schedules**

### **Option 1: Hybrid**

Grades K-5

Students will attend school in cohorts; one in the morning and one in the afternoon, 2 ½ hours. In between the morning and afternoon cohorts, there will be intensive cleaning of all classrooms.

Grades 6-12

Students will attend school for the regular school day and be divided into two cohorts and attend school on alternating days. Cohort A students and Cohort B students will follow a repeating two-week schedule which will be ABAAB (Week 1) and ABBAB (week 2). Students will attend a full day of school divided into cohorts. Some classes will be fully remote to accommodate for cohort model. On alternating days, students will have remote learning.

### **Option 2: Remote**

Grades K-12

RHCSD will provide enhanced remote learning model, learning and growing from the Spring. There will be a routine with established schedules.

## **Technology and Connectivity**

For purposes of remote learning, laptops will be available to families and students, a survey is forthcoming. Technical support will also be provided throughout the school year.

## **Transportation**

All efforts will be made to limit the number of students on each bus to ensure social distancing. In order to limit the numbers, parents are encouraged to drive their child to school. In addition, masks will be required at bus stops and on the bus. A survey will be distributed to parents next week to determine in advance who will be taking the bus to school or if alternative plans will be made. If your child needs transportation they will receive it.

## **Social and Emotional**

Mental health is a priority for the district. Counseling staff will be available to students to address the prolonged closure and reentry of students. We recognize that this is an extremely stressful time and that students and families need as much support as possible.

## **Special Education**

Students with disabilities will have access to necessary accommodations, modifications, supplementary aids and services, and technology to meet the needs of each students in all school schedules. Each student will continue to have a case manager in all school schedules to monitor their progress and provide support.

## **Bilingual Education**

We will continue to ensure that we complete the ELL identification process and provide the required instructional units of study. ENL teachers will continue to provide individualized support to students and families.