

As many of you read, the State is moving the School Opening Matrix from mandatory guidance to advisory guidance. This means that the state is not mandating that we are closed or open for in-person instruction, they are leaving it up to our judgement in consultation with the Douglas County Health Authority. Following safety protocols and our blueprint under Ready Schools, Safe Learners (RSSL) is still mandatory. There are many requirements we must follow while schools are open to maintain safe, educational workspaces.

We continue to work toward the goal of having all students return to school full day and this newest change in guidance seems to work toward that goal. Prior to the winter break, we determined that we would return to classrooms on January 4 using the same pattern and schedule as we had previously this year. Both buildings will operate on half day schedules and RCCS will continue alternating either Monday/Tuesday OR Wednesday/Thursday classes with students in the building. Please plan on using the same schedule you followed prior to the closure in November. Some families have elected to keep their students' home for the duration of the school year. We appreciate the communication with the buildings regarding your student's individual situations. Buses will run the same routes they did previously. Lunch service will provide food to students upon leaving school as well as deliver to specific locations in the community.

We have been in consultation with Dr. Dannenhoffer and Douglas County Public Health about the current, local situation and spread of the virus. We will continue to work closely with his office and monitor local cases. Safety of students and staff is our highest priority. If there is another local outbreak in the future, we may need to return to distance learning. It is our hope that a combination of vaccines being made available to staff AND a continued effort to maintain safe attitudes will allow us to keep the buildings open. The best thing that all of us can do is to stay home when we are sick, wear our masks, use good hygiene (wash hands), and maintain social distancing. Controlling the spread of the virus has shown the ability to open school buildings...let's keep it up.

We are fortunate to have the ability to open the buildings on January 4, 2021 once again. We look forward to seeing everyone.