

RETURN TO LEARNING PLAN

For December 1, 2020



RAIDERS

Richardton-Taylor Public School District #34
Return to Learning Plan Guiding Principles

Accountability: Ensuring health, safety, & well-being of all students, faculty/staff, and parents/guardians.

Communication: Maintaining open, honest, transparent, and timely updates to all stakeholders.

Adaptability: Creating a flexible educational system, providing multiple learning opportunities & emphasizing academic and social emotional needs.

Leadership: Challenging students, faculty/staff, and parents/guardians to lead themselves and others through this unpredictable time.

Community: Remember, we are all in this together. Together we can thrive, learn, and grow as a community.

Richardton-Taylor Public School District #34
November 23, 2020

RICHARDTON-TAYLOR PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Expect Success"

Dr. Kelly D. Peters, Superintendent
Dr. Misti Vogle, 5-12 Principal
Mr. Scott Bohn, PreK-4 Principal
Mrs. Kim Dressler, Business Manager
Mrs. Amber Bartz, RTHS Adm. Asst.
Mrs. Sara Conlon, RTHS Adm. Asst.
Mrs. Cindy Dohmann, TRE Adm. Asst.

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Mr. Duane Zent, Board President
Mr. Shannon Goetz, Vice President
Mr. Jody Hoff, Member
Mr. Ty Dressler, Member
Mr. Clay Kennington, Member

Richardton-Taylor Public School District Families:

We want to thank the students, parents, faculty/staff, and community member of our district for their flexibility and understanding as we continue to face the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic as it affects our school district. We started the year on August 19, 2020, with face-to-face instruction. We made it approximately 63 days before we had to stop instruction and switch to distance education because of the increased virus cases in our students, faculty, staff, and community. Not many schools can say they were going face-to-face instruction and made it that far into the year without stopping instruction. Great job Raiders!

We plan to return to face-to-face instruction on Tuesday, December 1, 2020! For us to return to learning safely, we need your help and understanding.


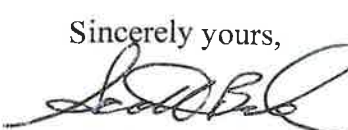
Here are some guidelines to review and follow as we prepare to return to face-to-face instruction:

- A. If you are sick (*students, faculty, and staff*) – **STAY HOME!**
- B. **Wash your hands!** Use the hand sanitizer provided upon entering the school, when entering/leaving classrooms, before/after lunch, and when leaving the restrooms.
- C. Masks are **REQUIRED** in all school buildings.
 - a. We are currently under a state-wide Mask Mandate.
 - b. We have a limited supply of disposable masks, and the cost is drastically increasing.
 - c. We have supplied masks and face coverings to ALL students K-12.
 - d. We need your help. Parents, please be sure your student has his/her mask/face covering BEFORE school.
 - e. Failure to follow this mandate can/will result in consequences such as being sent home.
- D. Temperatures will be taken on all students, faculty, and staff when entering the building, use of hand sanitizer is required, and all masks/face coverings are required before entering the building.

We cannot stress the importance of flexibility, patience, and understanding as we progress through the school year. The Smart Restart Plan published in the fall is a guideline but can and will change if/when we have positive COVID-19 cases in our schools and/or school-related activities. We will continue to provide you with information regarding classes, transportation, classroom arrangements, safety precautions, breakfast/lunch programs, co-curricular and extracurricular activities as the year progresses.

Thank you for your time reviewing our return to learning plan. We encourage everyone to ask questions and communicate their concerns as we move forward. Together, our school can provide quality education to our children in a safe manner if we work together to solve problems.

Sincerely yours,

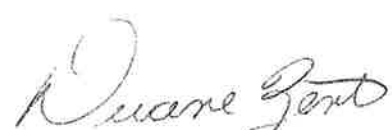


Mr. Scott Bohn
TRE Principal

Dr. Misti Vogle
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RTPSD Superintendent



Mr. Duane Zent
RTPSD School Board President



Parents are asked to review this daily health checklist by answering these questions before sending their child to school.

(Parents do not need to send the questionnaire to school)

Has your child had close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?

Yes ___ No ___

Does your child have a new or worsening shortness of breath?

Yes ___ No ___

Does your child have new or worsening cough?

Yes ___ No ___

Does your child have a fever?

Yes ___ No ___

Does your child have chills?

Yes ___ No ___

Does your child have a sore throat?

Yes ___ No ___

Does your child have a new loss of taste or smell?

Yes ___ No ___



If **YES** to any of the questions **STOP!**

Do not send your child to school.

Contact your healthcare provider.

Contact your child's school to inform them of your child's absence.

Consider having your child tested for the COVID-19 virus.



If you can answer **NO** to all questions, go to school.

Return to Learning Items to Consider

Preparing Students to Return to Learning – Check Your School Supplies

1. Masks and face coverings are **required**.
2. We can provide hand sanitizer, but students are encouraged to bring their own supplies if possible.

Preparing for the School Day

1. Evaluate the general health of your child/children.
2. If they are not feeling well or have an elevated temperature – **keep them home**.

Transportation

1. When students board the buses, their temperature will be taken, they are required to wear masks/face coverings, use hand sanitizer.
2. Students will be separated (*every other seat*) as much as possible, and they will be assigned seats.
3. Busses will be cleaned and wiped down at the end of each day.
4. If parents do not feel comfortable sending their children on the bus, they may choose to bring their children to school in their own vehicles.

Entering the School

1. Upon entering the building, students will have their temperature taken, use hand sanitizer, and instructed to use their face coverings properly (**nose and mouth must be covered**).
2. Students will be asked basic health questions (*Are you feeling well today? Do you have a cough/cold?*).
3. If students have an elevated temperature or are not feeling well, parents will be called and required to pick up their child/children as soon as possible.
4. Masks/face coverings are required in the classrooms, hallways, and when not social distancing.

Hallways & Locker Bays

1. Students will be asked to follow directional flow in the hallways (*walk on one side of the hall, practice social distancing when possible*).
2. Students will not gather by the locker bays or in the soft-seating areas of the school.
3. Students are encouraged to use their lockers only for jacket storage.
4. Use of bookbags will be encouraged to limit gathering by locker bays.
5. Masks/face coverings are required in the classrooms, hallways, and when not social distancing.

Classrooms

1. Students will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer upon entering and leaving the classroom.
2. Additional hand sanitizer will be in classrooms, in the halls, in the lunchrooms, and in the bathrooms.
3. Desks will be spaced out as much as possible to encourage social distancing.
4. Some grades and/or classes may be moved to limit movement in the hallways.

Lunchrooms

1. Lunch times will be adjusted for staggered start/stop times to limit crowding in the lunchrooms.
2. Students will be monitored and encouraged to practice social distancing in line and when moving to their lunch tables.
3. Tables will be separated as much as possible to abide by Department of Health Guidelines to encourage social distancing.
4. Some classes/grades may eat in their classrooms or in an alternative setting (*gym, larger classroom*) to limit crowding of the lunchrooms.
5. Meals may be plated, covered, and delivered to classrooms as needed.
6. Salads and sides will be plated and covered (*no dishing up your salad or side dishes*).
7. We will follow the Department of Health Guidelines when preparing and serving breakfast and lunch. Keep in mind, these guidelines may change as the school year progresses.

Instructional Models

1. The instructional models used by the district will be guided, in part, by the risk level of COVID-19 in the community and/or in the school.
 - a. Face-to-Face Instruction: Instruction is delivered in-person with some building and group modifications. Teachers and students maintain a normal daily schedule.
 - b. Distance Education: All instruction is provided off-campus using distance learning resources (*Schoology, Plan Book, See Saw, etc.*) suited for the unique needs of the student.
 - c. Home School Education: Education is the responsibility of the parent/guardian/caretaker and takes place inside the home.
2. We fully understand that this plan can/will be adjusted depending on the health and well-being of our students, faculty/staff, and community.

Extracurricular and Co-curricular Activities

1. We will be following the guidelines established by the North Dakota High School Activities Association (*NDHSAA*) regarding extracurricular and co-curricular activities and competitions.
2. We are working with other schools in our conference to ensure consistency from school to school regarding games, travel, use of locker rooms, spectators at games, number of spectators passes at games, meals, and social distancing.
3. We are going to try and live stream games for spectators who cannot attend the competition in person.
4. Sub-varsity, junior high, and elementary competitions may be limited and/or cancelled.

Color-Coded Health Guidance System

1. We will follow the system established by the Governor's Office and the Department of Health.
 - a. Blue/Green Phase: Lower risk level, 100% of students are welcomed back on campus for Face-to-Face Education. Protocols in place for use of masks/face coverings, social distancing, additional cleaning/disinfecting measures in school and school transportation, etc.
 - b. Yellow Phase: Moderate risk level, decrease number of students on campus for Face-to-Face Education. Increased protocols in place for use of masks/face coverings, social distancing, increased cleaning/disinfecting measures in school and school transportation, decreased extracurricular and co-curricular activities.
 - c. Orange Phase: High risk level, limit density in school buildings and at school activities. Some education provided through Distance Education plans (*quarantine, isolation, etc.*), increased cleaning/disinfecting measures in school. Follow reopening guidelines established in conjunction with Governor's Office, Department of Health, and Department of Education.
 - d. Red Phase: Critical risk level, no students on campus. All education provided through Distance Education plans, increased cleaning/disinfecting measures in school. Follow reopening guidelines established in conjunction with Governor's Office, Department of Health, and Department of Education.
2. The Governor, in consultation with the North Dakota Department of Health, will make the determination if/when the state or a specific county may change colors.
3. If the state adjusts from a statewide color to a county color, communication will occur among the Department of Health, Department of Public Instruction, and the Governor's Office, and the local public health unit will be informed.
4. Any changes will immediately be communicated to our students, parents, faculty/staff, and community members. Communication may be through: email, phone calls, web site postings, etc.

Health and Safety Guidance

The Richardton-Taylor Public School District strives to provide a healthy and safe environment for all students, faculty/staff, and patrons that occupy our schools. The following guidelines are intended to provide a framework for the district's response to COVID-19.

Best Intentions

Although we are taking many safety precautions, there is no guarantee that our school's will be without risk as it relates to COVID-19. The virus will be present on our buses, in our classrooms, and at our activities. In certain situations, social distancing is not possible in a school setting. Our actions, as outlined in this plan, will not prevent any student or staff member from being in contact with the virus.

Protect Yourself and Others

Monitor your health daily



- Be alert for symptoms. Watch for a fever, cough, or shortness of breath.
- Parents are asked to screen their children each day before sending them to school. Use the screening guidance provided (*see page 3 of this document*).
- **Faculty, staff, and students who are sick should stay home.**
- Temperatures of symptomatic students or staff may be taken at the school office.
 - Symptomatic students will be isolated, and their guardians contacted.

Wash your hands often



- Wash with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Students are encouraged to wash their hands often throughout the day.

Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others.



- The wearing of masks will be applied in phases based on the phases within the ND Smart Restart Guidance.
- Educators need to teach students how to properly wear a face covering so they are prepared to use them on school buses or other situations in close proximity with others.
 - Resources from NDDPI and RTPSD will be provided to teachers.
- We are currently under a Mask Mandate. Masks are **required** in all school buildings.

Avoid close contact



- Practice social distancing, this is especially important for people in the higher risk categories.
- Alternate or modified schedules, adjustments to use of common areas, use of outdoor spaces and other actions that increase physical separation may be considered.
- The sharing of instructional materials should be limited as much as possible.
- Physical separation on busing, one student per seat, will be recommended but cannot be guaranteed.
- Limit visitors, salespeople, deliveries, and other non-educational outside personnel in our buildings.

Cover coughs and sneezes



- Always cover your mouth & nose when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Throw tissues away and wash hands or use hand sanitizer to prevent spread.

Clean and disinfect



- School staff should clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.
- Shared materials (*not recommended*) should be cleaned.
- Classrooms will be cleaned nightly by custodial staff.