

Here is information about school starting on April 5 that might be helpful:

- A question I have already received quite a bit is what the school hours will be when we return. They will be 8:30 (adult supervision starts on the playground), 8:50 school begins, and 3:00 dismissal (just like the pre-COVID days!).
- We will continue to make breakfast available outdoors starting at 8:30. Please have your children come before the bell at 8:50 if they are interested in receiving breakfast.
- Most aspects of in-person school will stay the same as they have been for the last several months during the hybrid learning (masking for all, sanitizing, washing, not sharing materials, use of plexiglass barriers when needed). One change is that the amount of social distancing has changed from 6 feet to 3 feet, so desks and seating for learning will be closer together. We still will not be having morning meeting in circles or paired reading on the floor (hopefully next year for that!), but students will be a bit closer together than they have been.

Here is an article about that. Here is a study of 3 feet compared to 6 feet of physical distancing in Massachusetts schools.

<https://academic.oup.com/cid/advance-article/doi/10.1093/cid/ciab230/6167856>

- We have had some classrooms that are currently double long because of a collapsible wall, but those walls will be returned, and two separate classrooms will again be in place.
- Specials will most likely return to in-person.
- I am working on the lunch schedule and trying to keep students distanced as much as possible. We are getting some large tents, and we also have some smaller ones, so at this point I am thinking that the older students (grades 3-5) will most likely eat outdoors.
- Breakfast and lunch will remain free for all for the rest of the year.
- We will continue to have HEPA filters and fans in all areas.
- Our staff is getting vaccinated, but we will not all be fully vaccinated by April 5. Please be vigilant about keeping yourselves and your children safe. We will certainly be doing that, too.
- I am again attaching the Student and Family COVID checklist that we will continue to follow.
- We will utilize outdoor learning as much as possible.
- Many caregivers have asked about after-school care. I know that people are problem-solving about this, but I have no additional information at this point. Currently, there are not plans for before or after school care taking place in our building for the spring.
- For Dismissal, which will be at 3:00 (FYI sometimes students are already outside at dismissal time and will be out on the playground):

Location for Pick Up		
Central Front Door	Kindergarten	Parents will need to pick up out front (masked and socially distanced from one another)
Right Corner Front Door (by nurse's office)	Grades 4 and 5	Parents can pick up (masked and socially distanced from one another)
Back Door (by custodial entrance) Have them walk down the path toward the swings. Parents can wait on blacktop.	Grade 3	Parents can pick up (masked and socially distanced from one another)
Left Front Door (by the cafeteria)	Grades 1	Parents can pick up (masked socially distanced from one another)
Side Corner Door (near the back of building)	Grade 2	Parents can pick up (masked socially distanced from one another)

We are really looking forward to having more students at school and getting back to more of our “normal” routines. We know that some students will make the transition easily and that it will be more difficult for others. Here is a reminder about all of the adults who support our students at school. We are a strong team at Ryan Road School and will take good care of your children. Contact any of us if you have concerns or questions.

We have had a couple of members of our school community who have tested positive for COVID-19, but those cases have come from outside contacts. We have had zero (0!) cases of school transmission, and I hope we can keep up with this record!

If you would like to change your mind from remote to in-person this spring, you can do that once, with in-person learning starting on May 17. Just let me know if/when you change your mind.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions