



HEATHER CARTWRIGHT, PRINCIPAL | TAYLOR SPARKS, ASST. PRINCIPAL
1908 FORREST STREET | TUPELO, MS | 38801 | P: (662) 841-8950

July 15, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Rankin Elementary staff and I are looking forward to our students returning for another school year together! While the year ahead will most certainly look a little different from previous years, we are committed to making this one an exciting year full of joy and one to result in precious memories for your family and child(ren). At Rankin, we are cognizant of the significant role school plays in your child's happiness and quality of life. We take this responsibility very seriously. Our goal at Rankin continues to be to create an environment in which all students can thrive, learn, and grow while keeping our students, staff and entire school community safe. Please know we have taken many measures to make this a reality and will work diligently to care for your child as we would our own. In order to move forward with our commitment amid the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be some changes to our school day. Some specifics are outlined below:

- Our instructional school day will be 8:15 a.m. until 2:15 p.m.
- Arrival --Doors will open to receive students at 7:30 AM. Students will report directly to their classrooms with their designated teacher, however, each student will have the opportunity to pick up a grab-and-go breakfast on the way to his/her homeroom class.
- Dismissal - Students will depart using various exits on campus beginning at 2:15 PM. This early release time is necessary to accommodate multiple routes for our buses and for our staff to carry out additional cleaning steps enabling our students to have the engaging learning opportunities necessary for age appropriate development.
- All school supplies will be provided for all students. Students will have individual bags/boxes of supplies, manipulatives, books, etc.
- Students may bring backpacks, lunchboxes, and purses.
- Students will remain with their homeroom class for the entire school day. Teachers will change classes in order to provide instruction to various groups. Students, however, will remain in the same classroom with the same grouping of children to limit exposure during the instructional day. Challenge classes will remain intact as we are accustomed and will be pulled out of the regular classroom on their designated day/time.

- All special services will still be offered to students who qualify for those supports such as special education, English Learner interventions and Tier II and Tier III support.
- Teachers will determine individual learning gaps in August. Interventions and extra support will be planned for students as needed to close any learning gaps. Those needing additional academic and behavior support will be provided Tier II or Tier III services based on identified needs.
- Breakfast and lunch will be provided by our cafeteria staff. Students will eat their meals in the classroom.
- Rankin will be a peanut/nut free school again this year. Please help us by voluntarily adhering to the following food allergy safety guidelines. More details to come from our nurse when school begins.
 - Please do not send any food items to be eaten as snacks in our classrooms with ingredient labels indicating they contain peanuts or nuts.
 - Please do not send any food items with ingredient labels indicating they were manufactured in a factory that processes nuts. Example: Hershey's plain chocolates and some jelly beans.
- Guests will not be permitted to join students or staff on campus during the instructional day in order for us to promote the healthiest environment possible for our students and staff.
- Handwashing and sanitization will be a significant focus for helping students to learn and practice healthy habits throughout the school day.
- Specials (Art, Music, PE, Media & Technology) will continue to be offered to students on a rotational basis. Students will travel to the activity classroom. We will sanitize rooms between classes.
- Recess is also included as a part of our students' daily schedule with a limited number of students on the playground area or designated play area at a time.
- Movement throughout the building has been carefully planned to avoid masses of students being in the hallway at any given time.
- A full-time school nurse has been hired to be at Rankin, Monday – Friday each week.
- As outlined in the Tupelo Public School District Blueprint for Reopening School 2020-2021 School Year, <https://t.co/DaPKvWWijS>, students and staff will be expected to wear a mask during small group instruction and expected to wear a mask when they are not able to practice social distancing. Students will be expected to wear their mask during arrival, dismissal, bus travel, and moving throughout the building.
- A face covering will be provided by the district; however, if you want to provide one for your child, you are welcome to do that as well.
- Intermittent closures are addressed in the Blueprint. Due to possible outbreaks, the superintendent may be required to close a school or schools to prevent further spread. Students will receive instruction online during these closures.
- Distance learning is an option provided to K-12 students in our district for the upcoming school year. If chosen by families as the learning option, this would be a commitment that would extend for the entire semester. Please note, we will welcome students to join us at the start of Semester 2 (January) should that be requested by parents. For those choosing the Distance Learning option, the deadline is July 17, 2020.

- Students participating in distance learning would be assigned a teacher who would assist parents in providing standards-based instruction, feedback for assignments, and continuous communication with students and parents for this selected method of learning. This method of learning would still require students to be accountable for logging into the students' instructional day with regular attendance as well as meet the grade level criteria for him/her to be promoted to the next grade level.
- We will limit the number of visitors in the office. We will ask some people to wait outside from time to time to protect all families and guests. When visiting, please wear a mask. You are welcome to call the office for assistance prior to entering the building.
- As a safety precaution parents will not be allowed to enter the building or to walk their child to their classroom on the first day(s) of school. Your child will be enthusiastically welcomed by staff members and escorted to their new classrooms. Our staff will work diligently to calm any first day jitters!
- Each child will have his or her own desk in the classroom, activity classes, and challenge classrooms. If seated at a table, children will be at opposite ends. Teachers will set up classrooms with social distancing in mind.
- Daily schedules are posted online at <https://www.tupeloschools.com/rankin/parents/check-in-check-out-times> if you would like a more in-depth look at the school day.

There will be joy and fun in our day! We will work tirelessly to make Rankin Elementary a joyful place for all children.

At Rankin, our teachers, staff and I are ready to welcome your children in August as if they are our own. We desire for experiences at Rankin to be those that will encourage, inspire, and motivate your child to be the very best he or she can be. We believe it takes a partnership with our parents, families, and community to make this happen. Our goals of helping students demonstrate being responsible, respectful, resourceful, and safe each and every day will not waver. The changes in our day-to-day procedures for this year align with the guidance provided by CDC, our community healthcare professionals, as well as our district leadership to give you and your child our very best opportunity for safety and wellness. We look forward to your continued partnership and support in making 2020-2021 school year one that allows your child solid educational experiences at Rankin.

More information will be forthcoming, and some information may change based on needs and guidelines at that time. If you should have any additional questions or concerns during the registration process, please do not hesitate to reach out by calling our main office at 841-8950. We are always glad to help.

Partners in Learning,

Heather Cartwright and the Rankin All-Star Team