



2020-2021 Return to Learn Plan





Return to Learn Plan

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Message from Brandon LaChance, Executive Director

The NRCCS *Return to Learn Plan* is a product of extensive collaboration with the NRCCS community, including parents; our principal, Libby Meyring; leadership staff; the Colorado Department of Education; along with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). Here is a [link](#) to the updated guidance from those organizations and check out our [COVID-19 Resources](#) page on our website. The purpose of this *Return to School Guide* is to give you one active resource that you will be able to access for all things related to our school during this time.

Based on the survey results from our parents, our direct stakeholders, we are confident that with proper safety protocols, proper cleaning and all of us collectively doing our part to make NRCCS as safe as possible, returning to in-person learning five-days a week is what is currently best for our students, families, and staff. This will not be easy. This will be a true test of our school and community to rally together to get our kids back to school safely and confidently so that we can begin to make up the lost learning time from last spring and to begin this year's learning journey.

As with everything during this pandemic, everything is fluid and changes very quickly, so active communication between the school and parents is going to be a vital component to a successful return to school.

We will continue to serve our mission: to challenge young lives to explore and learn beyond four walls through expeditions and outdoor discovery. **So what does that mean??** It means putting kids first. It means we try to educate the whole child through inculcating character traits, habits of learning, service projects, and outdoor education and wellness (OEW)--and using projects that bring together the investigation of important science and humanities topics with the world that surrounds our students. This is the beauty of our school, where each and every kid counts and knows there's a place for him or her in our amazing school.

What does serving our mission mean during this unique time?

We will work to ensure "predictability." We have heard from many parents that the virus is not their top concern; rather it is the difficulty in juggling daily life when there is a school closure. That is why we are confident that with our return to school plan we are limiting exposure and potential transmission by staying with specific cohorts/ small groups of students.

We will provide to you a choice to enroll your child in either in-person learning or a distance learning option. Please be on the lookout for an email from the school requesting your enrollment selection on



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August 10th, with a **deadline of August 16th**. We need the correct enrollment numbers for either in-person or distance learning in order to best plan for the first day of school.

We ask you not to disenroll during this time, as it could result in you losing your enrollment slot. You are part of this school family. We will work with you to support your request and needs during this time. So when the time is right, we all can return as one community school.

Collectively, as a community school, this is the time to band together to take on this challenge ahead of us--**getting our kids back to school**. This is new for all of us, and as much as school staff has been actively working on this plan, we don't have all the answers. We will remain flexible with you to support any needs that arise, and we ask for the same.

Yours in Education,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. LaChance", is positioned below the text "Yours in Education,".

Brandon LaChance
Executive Director



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Message from Libby Meyring, Principal

Dear Families,

I hope this email finds you enjoying the last moments of summer while eagerly looking forward to the return to school. While we all feel the effects of the various events in our world that continue to impact our daily lives, first and foremost, I am confident that we at NRCCS will fulfill our responsibility to continue our work in preparing our students to reach their full potential as they continue to evolve as individuals. Secondly, at NRCCS we are ready to meet the challenges and unknowns with grit and perseverance to create amazing opportunities for our students to connect, engage, and learn during this time. I recognize this year will be unique, and we are ready to do the best we can for our students, families, and community. I am honored to serve this community and school in my new role as Principal and look forward to reconnecting with families and becoming acquainted with our new families.

Our Back to School Plan: Our last email communication stated that we would be returning to school with our Plan A, however this has changed. On July 31st, the SSSD went into Phase 3, with the plans for students to attend one day on, then one day off to lessen the number of kids in each cohort. With that being said, NRCCS will now go into Plan B on the first day of school. As this whole situation is not ideal, with NRCCS being a small school, we are able to create a very comprehensive daily plan for kids, which includes teaching with video by core teachers and support from co-teachers. IN this document you will see what our Plan B looks like, which we will be in place on our first day on August 24th. Classroom teachers and co-teachers will be sending you more in-depth information about the daily schedule in those specific classes. Please note we have made some staffing changes within Plan B and will keep you updated.

New Staff and New Roles: NRCCS is glad to welcome a few new faces to the staff CREW.

Mr. Wil Chapple - We are so excited to welcome Mr. Chapple as our new OEW teacher. Wil is passionate about the outdoors, athletics, and engaging students in physical education all while having a smile on his face. We are thrilled to have Mr. Chapple join our team.

Ms. Sarah Chapple- Ms Chapple will be embarking on a new role at NRCCS, as the 3rd/4th Grade Crew Teacher. Ms. Chapple has a wealth of knowledge and experience in teaching this age group, and is excited to get back into the classroom and pass the outdoor torch on to her husband, Mr. Chapple!

Communications: Communication is very important for us as a school. As a general rule, our main mode of communication is via our website, emails and our bi-monthly email newsletters. Please make a habit of checking the website for updates. In the event of a school emergency, you could be contacted via email, text or all-call voice recorded message, depending on the situation. As always, if you have any questions about anything, you can always call the office at 970-871-6062.

Teachers to Parents: Teachers will send out weekly email updates to families, and are available via email. With this being said, please understand that our staff and teacher's #1 priority during the school day is to be present with students, so it may take more than a day for a teacher to answer a



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parent email, as teachers often receive many parent emails in one day. Please be mindful of the time it takes to answer these emails. At the Virtual Open House Night, your teacher/s will explain to you their best mode of communication. The use of weekly Excellence Trackers (ETs) is also a continual method of communication between school and home.

1/2 Day Fridays: As you will see on the yearly school calendar, we have ½ day Fridays on 11/20, 12/18, 2/5, 3/12, 4/2, and 5/7, where the school day will end at noon. It is expected for you to pick up your child/ren by that time. ½ day Fridays are utilized by staff for Professional Development.

Kindi “Find Your Desk”: We would like to welcome our new kindergartners and families to come to see their school, classroom, teacher, and classmates. On *Thursday, August 19th from 5:30pm-6:30pm*, we will have a “Meet and Greet” allowing your new student a time to get comfortable before the BIG day! Ms. Annie will be setting a schedule for you and your student to visit during this time.

Open House: Our **virtual** open house night is planned for *Thursday, September 3rd from 6:00pm-7:00pm*. **It’s important that all parents attend virtually.** It’s a great way to learn about the daily events in your child’s classroom, parent volunteering opportunities, EL curriculum, and what’s up and coming. We look forward to seeing you all there!

NRCCS 101: This program is meant to give new parents an introduction to how we operate as a school. We will review aspects of the parent handbook and daily aspects of our school and give you time to ask questions that you might have. This program is scheduled for the hour before the teacher-led Virtual Open House Night, *Thursday, September 3rd from 5:00pm-6:00pm*.

Annual BBQ Fundraiser: Unfortunately we are unable to hold our Annual BBQ as we have in the past. However, our school still relies on the generosity of our community and families. We will be sending updates and plans soon!

After-School/Study Hall: We honor and recognize that after-school is very important for many families. We are waiting to make a decision on our after school program until September 18th. Prior to September 18th, no after school program is available and your child/ren should be picked up at the end of the day.

First Day of School: We are so excited to see you all on August 24th! Typically, we welcome parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors to drop off your child/ren on the first day of school, but unfortunately we cannot have these extended family members present this year. They are welcome to wait in your vehicle while you bring your child/ren into school for the first day. We will have a location in front of the school designated to “first-day pictures.” Please practice social distancing and mask wearing during this time. We will have staff helping to direct students to their classroom, and all students will enter their classrooms through the outside classroom door.

Supply Lists: All lists are located in the entryway of the school, and on our website.



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Parking Lot safety--pick up and drop off of students: Staff will be present at drop-off and pick-up to ensure the safety of your child. It is asked that everyone honor the no-parking signs, as well as social distancing. If you plan to escort your student to their outside classroom door, please park in designated locations.

How can you get involved with NRCCS? As a small rural charter school, we are always in major need of volunteers. Volunteer opportunities range from classroom teacher support, snow shoveling, event planning, or our School Accountability Committee (SAC). You will be able to learn more about how to support the school at our *Virtual NRCCS 101 program* as well as at our *Virtual Open House Night*.

Nut and Peanut Free: *NRCCS is 100% Peanut and Nut Free.* This is to ensure the safest school possible for all students.

- Please be vigilant in reading all food labels. Make sure it clearly indicates that no peanuts or nuts are in the food, or have “traces” of the peanut/nut in the product. Those items are **not** allowed.
- Note: Most food labels will have an area describing potential allergy conflicts on all products.
- However, we have removed all seed and oil restrictions (unless it’s peanut oil) from our “list”. So, that makes it very simple for you as parents. **NO PEANUT “anything” and NO NUTS of any kind.**

Following these food labels is the easiest way to navigate

<u>Allowed</u>	<u>Not Allowed</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Everything else is allowed, as long it has <u>zero</u> traces of peanuts or nuts. <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Food Labeling</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “Processed in a plant” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Any Peanuts or form of peanuts (peanut butter and peanut oil) ● Any form of nuts (including almond butter, nutella, oils, etc) <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Food Labeling</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “May contain traces”

First-of-Year School Fee Structure: Our costs go up every year and we are trying hard to hold student fees steady and to inform you upfront as to all fee outlays rather than “nickel and dime” families throughout the year. Larger families or families needing to spread out payments may request a payment schedule, and can work this out with Ms. Stella. Due to the unusual circumstances we are in this year, we have held off on scheduling and finalizing our Fieldwork trips until the first month of



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school. Fieldwork is a vital component of being an EL school. In addition to being a rural school, our teachers are focused on bringing place-based hands-on opportunities to their students. During the Open House each CREW room teacher will provide a fieldwork worksheet documenting all trips scheduled around CREW-specific expeditions. There will be costs associated with these trips and they will be provided at that time.

Open House: Our **virtual** open house night is planned for *Thursday, September 3rd from 6:00pm-7:00pm*. **It's important that all parents attend virtually.** It's a great way to learn about the daily events in your child's classroom, parent volunteering opportunities, EL curriculum, and what's up and coming. We look forward to seeing you all there!

NRCCS 101: This program is meant to give new parents an introduction to how we operate as a school. We will review aspects of the parent handbook and daily aspects of our school and give you time to ask questions that you are unable to hold our Annual BBQ as we have in the past. However, our school still relies on the generosity of our community and families. We will be sending updates and plans soon!

Please know that we are preparing the best instruction in a safe environment with dedicated instructors for our students. Together, we are CREW!

Be Well,

Libby Meyring, Principal

North Routt Community Charter School



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Our goals:

1. **Student Safety and Well-being:** School will look different with the safety protocols that are planned. With small class sizes, PPE and cleaning schedules, we are confident in creating the safest school possible during this time. Student well-being is another major priority to us, we hope to get kids connected, learning and getting the spirits back into our kids, that happens at school!
2. **Student Learning and Socialization:** Reports are coming out that during the school closure in the springs, mental health concerns have skyrocketed while academic regression is still unknown. So, here at NRCCS our top priorities are: a) Get kids back into academics and begin to learn the real student regression over the last 6 months. b) Kids need kids! They need time to interact and learn from each other. As you will see in this plan, we have found a way for kids to interact with their classmates, but we are also planning for our kids to attend daily PE/OEW--outside.
3. **Back to School:** We want to create a sense of normalcy in our classrooms, while the use of our building will look a bit different. As you will see in the explanation of our plans further in the document: we are asking that all students report to the external door that is in each classroom, no hallway interactions, no switching of classroom or teachers. So while the school building might feel different due to the safety protocols, we are focused on creating a sense of normalcy in each of our classrooms.



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Learning Options for the 2020-2021 school year

*First Day of School for all students, regardless of learning option, is August 24th

On July 31st, the SSSD went into Phase 3, with the plans for students to attend one day on, then one day off to lessen the number of kids in each cohort. With that being said, NRCCS will now go into Plan B on the first day of school.

Plan B: In Person Learning

GRADE LEVEL	TEACHER	CLASSROOM SPACE
Kindergarten	Ms. Annie Elliott	Kindergarten Classroom
1st Grade	Ms. Amy Cosgrove	Math Classroom
2nd Grade	Ms. Katrina Wellman-Machut	1st/2nd Grade Classroom
*3rd Grade/4th Grade	Ms. Sarah Chapple	Community Room
5th Grade	Ms. Melanie Walker	5th/6th Grade Classroom
6th Grade	Ms. Erin Walker	Yurt
**7th Grade	Ms. Jen Parent- Classroom Supervisor	3rd/4th Grade Classroom
8th Grade	Mr. Dan Kohler	7th/8th Grade Classroom
PE/OEW	Mr. Wil Chapple	Outside

*Due to low enrollment numbers in 3rd/4th Grade, this Crew will not be split, and will be housed in the community room to have the most space

** The 7th/8th grade crews will be separate, and Ms. Jen will be the classroom supervisor under the direction of Mr. Kohler. Accessing and utilizing Mr. Kohler's instruction via different technology methods.



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Alternate Option: Online Learning- If you as a parent don't feel comfortable in sending your child/ren to in-person learning on campus, we will work with you to create an online support method for your child. In choosing the individualized distance learning plan, families acknowledge that the student will remain enrolled in the North Routt Community Charter School, but will be educated at home. At any given time during the school year if the student chooses to come back to in-person learning at the school, they can.

Special Education- At NRCCS, we believe that students with unique learning styles are general education kids first, and will have the same choices between in-person and distance learning. We assure you that special education support and services are available to all students with specialized services identified within their Individual Education Plan (IEP).

If forced through County or State Mandates, we will go to Plan C.

NRCCS Plan C:

Distance Learning- This will look similar to the spring, with hopes of better internet infrastructure in our community. We understand and agree this is not what is best for kids and learning. If we are forced to go with this option, again, we will work with you to support your child's needs.



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Safety Plan and Procedures

Mask Requirement: All staff and students will wear a mask while at school. The school has purchased and will give each student a set of five reusable masks. The masks purchased are kid-friendly and adjustable. We ask that you wash your child mask after each use; this is why we thought it was best to get you a week's worth. We have also purchased different styles of hats with masks for our younger population. If you have your own mask you would like your child to use instead of the ones the school has supplied, we ask that they meet CDC guidelines.

Starting on August 17th, the masks will be labeled with your child's name and placed in the entryway of the school for pick-up. If needed, arrange with neighbors or friends to pick them up if you are unable the week of August 17th-21st.

- Individual accommodations may only be considered if wearing a mask would inhibit the individual's health. A doctor's note and formal accommodation meeting will have to happen prior to the student not wearing a mask.
- Face coverings will not need to be worn at lunch, but students will have to practice proper distancing during this time.

Cleaning Supplies and Process: We have purchased updated cleaning supplies and equipment to do a thorough cleaning throughout the school day and at the end of the day. We have a plan to have targeted and thorough cleaning done daily, and have hired a professional service to deep clean weekly.

Student Hygiene and Health: Students will wash their hands or use hand sanitizer upon entering the building and students will be required to wash their hands frequently for a minimum of 20 seconds. Each student should bring a water bottle, as the drinking fountains will be disabled; students will be able to fill water bottles in their classrooms.

Daily Symptoms Screening for Students and Staff: Families are asked to monitor daily symptoms of cough, temperature above 100.4F, shortness of breath, sore throat, and other symptoms related to COVID-19.

- Students or staff who are showing signs of symptoms related to COVID-19 or who have a temperature of 100.4 or higher should remain home.
- Students or staff who become symptomatic while at school will be isolated until they can return home safely following local health department recommendations and guidelines.



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Temperature Checks: All staff and students have to take a temperature before entering into the building, as this is a current county requirement. We plan to do a temperature check as your child enters the classroom, as well as another check around midday.

School Transportation: Transportation is a big moving target for us. As you can see in our learning plan, keeping kids separated in their respective cohorts is the key to our safety plan. Putting kids from grades K-8 on the bus daily seems to really counteract our larger safety plan. Based on all parents on the survey voicing that they will be able to transport kids to school, we have *decided to hold off on the bus plan until September 18th*, to allow us time to learn from others in the best transportation plan moving forward. More information will be forthcoming. All students must be dropped off at school until further notice.

Daily Start and Stop Time: Since all students will enter their classroom from the external door, students will be able to begin to enter their room at 7:45. In previous years we offered a quiet supervised reading location for kids starting at 7:30; we are sorry we are unable to offer this service during Plan B.

Drop-off and Pick-up Time: School is out at 3:15, and we ask that all students are picked up by 3:30. At pick-up, students will be in their respective cohorts. We will have staff members mitigating traffic and getting your children into your car in a timely and safe manner.

After School: *We have decided to not start the school year with an afterschool program.* We understand the need and hardship by not having an afterschool program at the start of school. This decision was made to minimize interaction between the kids who we are trying to keep separate during the school day, along with waiting and learning from others on how to best manage programs like afterschool, choir, fly fishing club, rock climbing, etc. We hope to offer an outdoor afterschool program starting around September 18th. More information will be forthcoming.

Student Entrance: Your child should walk to their CREW room and enter from the external door. Staff will be present on the first day to guide you and your child on how to enter the school.

Bathrooms: Bathrooms can be a traffic jam often in our school. In order for us to operate in the safest manner, our bathroom management plan is aligned to where each cohort will have a separate bathroom. While this is not ideal, we are looking to use portable toilets for our upper grades. They will be cleaned daily and serviced weekly or twice a week.

Lunch: Lunch will take place in each of the classrooms to avoid the potential of transmission in one location for all students of the school. Starting on August 24th, it is planned to still have Clark Store lunches being provided for those who sign up.



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Teachers and Staff: All teachers and staff will wear a face covering at all times. Staff will also consider face shields as an added barrier option when working in close proximity with others or when students are medically unable to wear a mask consistently.

Building Visitors: Whenever possible, nonessential visitors, volunteers, or activities involving other groups outside of our school will not be allowed to enter our building to minimize exposure with additional individuals. Exceptions could be made in the event of an emergency. This includes parents who may have previously volunteered in classrooms.

Building Ventilation: Our ventilation system was designed to only pull fresh air from outside, meaning that our building has no re-circulated air at any point. We also have MERV-8 filters to filter all air we pull from outside and those are changed regularly.

Community Broadband: As most North Routters can see, Luminate Broadband is bringing high-speed fiber to Willow Creek and eventually up to Hahn's Peak. An expected completion date of 10/31/20 has been advertised by Luminate. In the event we have to move to Plan C, this work will hopefully be completed.

School Closure and Illness Response:

- NRCCS will use [this](#) resource from CDPHE in the event of a potential positive case/s. Here is the link to that information. This is also an excellent resource in the event you or your child are experiencing any symptoms.
- NRCCS has identified a dedicated space to isolate symptomatic individuals until they can return home or to a health facility. Isolation spaces will be cleaned and disinfected appropriately between each use.
- NRCCS is prepared to shift students and staff to remote learning environments or cohort dismissal in the event of a confirmed COVID-19 case among students or employees, or should school shift completely to distance learning (Plan C) in the event of an outbreak.
- In summary: in the event of a positive case of one of our cohorts (grade level class), once we receive the confidential information of a positive case, that is when we will follow the CDPHE guidelines for positive cases and/or outbreaks--link above.
You will hear directly via phone and email from the school in regards to any cohort/school closure or change in plans.



North Roubt Community Charter School

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Return to School: Parent Q and A Townhall Style Meeting

As we enter into August and the beginning of school just around the corner, we want to offer time for parents and guardians to ask questions to school leadership and staff in regards to our plan for the school to return. Google invites have been sent to your email for the following dates. We hope that you join one of the virtual gatherings.

August 18th, 5 pm-6 pm --[Here is a link to this Google Meeting](#)

or

August 19th, 5 pm-6 pm --[Here is a link to this Google Meeting](#)



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Parent Agreement and Enrollment Selection

On August 10th, you all will receive an email with a link to select your enrollment option for each of your children. This window for enrollment will be from August 10th-16th. We ask that all parents do this for us to allow us time to properly plan for both in-person and distance for those who select to do so.

Parents who do not submit their enrollment selection by August 16th may lose their space in the school. While we hope this does not happen, we must keep a firm deadline of August 16th in order to plan effectively.