



ROCORI Public Schools ISD 750

Fall 2020: Questions and Answers

Please use the following list of questions as a reference for the opening of schools in ROCORI for the fall of 2020. This list is by no means exhaustive so please feel free to contact your building principal for additional details if your question is not answered on this page.

Information may change as we get closer to September 8, the start of our school year. We will update this page with any new or updated information. Additionally, individual buildings will send out site-specific details for their schools. Please watch your email for additional information.

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School - General Questions

1. **School Hours can be found on our website on each school's homepage. They are as follows:**
 - [ROCORI High School](#): 7:00am-5:00pm
 - [ROCORI Middle School](#): 7:30am-5:00pm
 - [Cold Spring Elementary](#): 7:30am-3:00pm
 - [John Clark Elementary](#): 7:30am-2:40pm
 - [Richmond Elementary](#): 7:30am-2:40pm

- [Alternative Learning Center: 7:30am-4:00pm](#)

2. **What is happening with Open House?**

Due to social distancing guidelines and the unpredictability of an Open House, ROCORI Schools will change what the opening weeks of school look like for staff, students, and parents.

September 8 and 9 will be used to individualize the start of the school year for families and students. We will be asking for ~~one~~ parent and the student in all grades to attend an entrance conference.

- Elementary Conferences will be scheduled by teacher using My Conference Time.
- Middle School Conferences will be scheduled by Spartan Time teacher using Skyward
- High School Conferences will be scheduled by homeroom teacher using Skyward.
- ROCORI's Online students will schedule a conference with an online teacher.

3. **When is the first day of school for students?**

All classes for K-12 students will begin on September 10.

4. **Will backpacks be allowed in classrooms?**

This is a consideration as we comply with social distancing protocols. School-specific plans will be communicated by each individual building.

5. **What is happening for recess and lunches and are the kids moving classrooms during the day?**

K-5 schools will utilize additional spaces within the school for social distancing. See information sent from each individual school. At recess, ROCORI elementary schools will limit the number of classes outside together and groups will have designated sections of the playground to use. RMS/RHS will implement staggered passing time and lunch schedules among student groups (example: 6th grade, 7th & 8th, and 9th-12th)

6. **Will Specialist and Elective classes be offered?**

Class offerings will remain consistent with past practice; however they may occur in a variety of settings or at different time in the calendar year depending on the level. School-specific plans will be communicated by each individual building.

7. **What will Special Education look like?**

Special Education Case Managers will work with families on an individual basis to review and modify Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) as needed to support students in the three models (In Person, Hybrid, and Distance Learning).

8. What will we need for school supplies?

Each school will have an updated list of school supplies listed on their website. See the [ROCORI Public Schools](#) website for this information.

9. Will extra-curricular programming still be offered?

For the most updated guidance, please see the [ROCORI Athletics and Activities](#) webpage.

10. Will there be classes that are not offered such as Advanced Placement, Band or Choir?

It is our desire to offer Advanced Placement, Band, Choir, and other classes that enrich our ROCORI student's experience. Classes may be in a variety of spaces, but these options will be available.

11. How will I know if the district or my school is shifting to a different instructional model because of changes in COVID cases?

The ROCORI District Office, with the direction of Superintendent Mr. Kelvington, will communicate any changes in instructional model as we navigate the 2020-2021 school year. As a parent or guardian please take time to update any contact and communication information with your student's school. Having the most current information will assist in successful and timely communication.

12. What will instruction look like in the hybrid model when my child is at home? Will this be the same for distance learning? Will students get direct interaction with their teachers (not pre-recorded videos) throughout the day everyday they are distance learning?

Students grades 7th-12th will received detailed information from their teacher in regard to what their off-campus learning will look like in an A/B schedule. Students may be given tasks to complete, like traditional homework, they may also be given topics to explore and prepare for the next in-school lesson. Your student may experience a "flipped classroom". The Flipped Classroom is a blended learning model in which traditional ideas about classroom activities and homework are reversed, or "flipped." In this model, instructors have students interact with new material for homework first. They then use class time to discuss the new information and put those ideas into practice. It will not look the same as the distance learning experience this Spring, for the fact that in a hybrid model ROCORI kids will receive in-person instruction every other day.

13. At the middle school will students switch from class to class or will teachers move from class to class?

In general, 6th grade students will travel through a daily schedule with a combination of students moving from class to class and instances where students stay in a classroom, while teachers move. Most 7th & 8th grade students will move from class to class.

14. When do we pick up computers and iPads?

More information will be coming soon. Contact your building principal with any questions.

15. How are you handling gym, music, and recess?

This question is building-specific so please refer to the communication from your school.

16. How are you handling traffic flow in the hallways?

One way traffic will be implemented in hallways whenever possible.

17. How are you handling drinking fountains?

There's no evidence you can get COVID-19 from the water itself. But since the virus may linger on surfaces, experts say to avoid fountains if you can or to limit any direct contact when using them. Automated hydration systems may be available to fill water bottles. Highly encouraged to bring your own water bottle.

18. If we elect and/or are offered in person or hybrid should we be purchasing all school materials listed on the website?

Yes. If your child is attending school in-person, you will need to supply the materials listed.

Learning Models: Transitioning from Online Learning to an In-Person or Hybrid Model

19. What happens if I submit my wish to send my child to in person or hybrid learning and then circumstances change and I would prefer all online learning either before school begins or after school starts?

Families can move from an Online Learning Only model to an In Person/Hybrid model and vice-versa as follows:

- Elementary Schools (K-5): First Opt-Back will be October 5; after that date, on a trimester basis
- Secondary Schools (6-12): Trimester

There will be a procedure and time period in which requests must be made to allow for adequate instructional planning and to ensure adequate staffing levels. The enrollment windows will be communicated to families and parents will need to contact their building principal to change their child's enrollment choice.

Families requesting a move to Distance Learning Only may do so for:

- Health Reasons - move can be made within 1-2 days
- Other Reasons - follow schedule outlined above

Learning Models: Elementary In-Person and Hybrid Models

20. What do the In Person and Hybrid Models look like at the elementary level?

[Executive Order 20-82](#) outlines different learning models for elementary and secondary students. In the Hybrid Model, schools must reduce capacity by 50%. This capacity limit is based on Fire Marshall requirements.

In person and Hybrid models at the elementary look very similar since space is available to keep instructional spaces to 50% capacity in either model. ROCORI elementary schools will practice social distancing, hand washing, wearing masks, and other preventative measures in both models in order to support student health and safety.

Learning Models: ROCORI Online Learning Only

21. What will the ROCORI Online Learning Only option look like?

Each class will be staffed with a ROCORI licensed teacher. Teachers will make daily contact with the students and communicate the success and struggles of each student for instructional support. Guidance can then reach out to the student to ensure success in the program. Teachers will respond to students within 24 hours of communication on a Monday through Friday basis. Attendance will be based on daily participation and progress on currently enrolled classes. We will be following the Stearns County Truancy laws. Time students are logged in and time engaged will be monitored. Percentage of completed tasks and assignments will also be monitored and reported to students and parents for accountability, time on task, and work productivity.

ROCORI teachers will make adjustments/modifications to the curriculum to meet Minnesota state standards. The online program will allow ROCORI to continue to meet state standards using the MCA, ACT, STAR, Minnesota Career Inventory Systems, along with local assessments and increased student enrollment of work-based and student apprenticeships.

Parents and Guardians will have access to the same support ROCORI's on site learners have. Parents and Guardians will be guaranteed pertinent communication, opportunities to meet with staff, grading and progress report information, and other chances to play a part in their student's educational life. Parents and Guardians will be given opportunities to share and give input about the value of their student's experience. Strong communication between home and school will be encouraged. Parents will have access to school communication functions such as email, Skyward, gradebooks, and phone communication. Additional support will include a virtual family night which will consist of training, information and procedures in regard to online curriculum, technology and expectation for the program.

Teacher assignment will be coming soon for all students- Conference time will be scheduled with students and families for learning on September 8th and 9th.

22. Will families choosing the ROCORI Online Learning only be required to submit supplies?

If students are choosing the ROCORI Online Learning Only option, they will not need to submit school supplies at their building. If families opt to return to school, school supplies would be required.

23. If I choose the ROCORI Online Learning - can my child participate in school sports (outside)? Other activities?

Yes. Families should watch for this communication from ROCORI Middle School and ROCORI High School.

Transportation

24. Can I change my children to attend the other A or B hybrid option? All of our neighbors and acquaintances are in the last half of the alphabet.

The alphabet designations are based on classroom and bussing capacity limits. We cannot accommodate individual requests and keep this essential balance.

25. In the Hybrid model, if bussing is not available for all students, how will you determine who receives it and who does not?

Busing is available at this time. We are able to accommodate the number of students needing bussing and still meet the 50% capacity threshold.

26. What will bussing look like from a safety stance?

Our busses are planned for a 50% capacity. We will ask students in the same household to sit together so that there is seating available for other students to spread out. Busses will be sprayed and sanitized each morning and evening. A station will be located behind the bus driver with hand sanitizer for student use. Masks will be required as busses are an extension of the classroom.

27. What time can I drop my child off at school if I am providing transportation?

ROCORI High School: Drop Off 7:00am, Pick up 3:00pm

ROCORI Middle School: Drop Off 7:00am, Pick up 3:00pm

Cold Spring Elementary: Drop Off 7:30-8:10 am, Pick up 2:50-3:15 pm

John Clark Elementary: Drop Off 7:30am-8:10am, Pick Up 2:40pm-2:50pm

Richmond Elementary: Drop Off 7:30am-8:10am, Pick Up 2:50pm-3:00pm

Alternative Learning Center: 7:30 and pick up after 3:00

28. How will Parent drop-off and pick-up work? Staggered times? Different doors?

Parent drop-off varies by building so watch for more information from the building principals. In general, parent drop-off occurs at different entrances than the bus drop-off.

Food Service

29. Will there be hot lunch?

Food Service will continue to offer hot lunch. See our [Food Service](#) website for menus and other Food Service information.

30. Will kids be able to bring cold lunch in a lunch bag? or what options do we have?

Students are able to bring a cold lunch from home; we will also have hot lunch available at all schools.

Childcare

31. Will Spartan Spot be available?

Spartan Spot will be available before and after school on with the In Person and Hybrid models. For registration and additional Spartan Spot information, please see the [Spartan Spot](#) website.

32. Your Restart Blueprint refers to Tier 1 workers. Who is that?

Tier 1 workers are defined on page 14 of [MDE's Guidance for Minnesota Public Schools: 2020-2021 School Year Planning](#) (July 30, 2020) as:

- Healthcare and public health
- Law enforcement, public safety and first responders
- Food and agriculture
- Judicial Branch (essential services)
- National Guard
- Educators and school staff caring for children of any critical worker
- Child care providers caring for children of any critical worker

33. Will the childcare options offer assistance with learning (or helping kids log on for distance learning)?

Yes. Spartan Spot staff will support students with their schoolwork during allotted times throughout the day. Certified teachers will not be part of that staffing.

Healthy & Safety: Classroom Health

34. What is the list of symptoms to keep a child at home?

Please refer to the Minnesota Department of Health's [website](#) for the most updated guidance on COVID 19 symptoms.

35. What is the plan if there is a confirmed case in our child's classroom (either student or teacher)?

We will have clear guidance from the MN Department of Health (MDH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). We will follow these protocols and will post them to our website once they are available for schools. See "[What To Do When Notified of a Lab-Confirmed Case of COVID-19 in a School or Childcare Setting](#)"

36. How will quarantined students keep up with their classes?

Quarantined students will continue to have communication with school staff through Schoology and Microsoft Teams. Off campus learning will continue. Student's situations will be dealt with on a case by case basis. Accommodations and Resource needs, like technology and classroom materials will be taken into consideration.

37. Will school supplies be kept in separate containers for each child or shared among their classes?

Shared materials will be discouraged, but when unavoidable they will be cleaned and disinfected between uses.

38. If my child develops a fever and is kept home until their fever is gone, will she/he need a Covid-19 Test to come back to school?

Possibly, the District expects that you will follow the recommendations of your health care provider. Also see [“What to do if you’re waiting for COVID-19 test results”](#).

Health & Safety: Face Masks

39. Will there be times throughout the day when masks will not be worn?

Exceptions to the face-covering requirement includes while students are eating lunch and/or are engaged in outdoor activities where social distancing can be practiced. Additional recess times have been added at the elementary level to provide additional social interaction and mask breaks.

40. What happens if a student refuses to wear a face mask?

ROCORI Public Schools requires masks or face coverings while within school buildings. Students are permitted to bring their own mask to school that meets guidance by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and meets ROCORI dress code policy. Those not able to wear a mask due to health restrictions will be asked to provide a doctor’s note and have on file with the school health office.

Face masks for all students and staff are required. If there is a medical exception, families must provide documentation to the school health office and reasonable accommodations will be instituted. If a student refuses to wear a face covering or willingly removes a face mask, schools will follow the same protocol as with other dress code violations.

41. Does my child have to wear a mask?

ROCORI Public Schools requires masks or face coverings while within school buildings. Students are permitted to bring their own mask to school that meets guidance by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and meets ROCORI dress code policy. Those not able to wear a mask due to health restrictions will be asked to provide a doctor’s note and have on file with the school health office.

State Guidance for 2020-2021

42. I watched the July 30 press conference with Governor Walz, the Minnesota Department of Education, and the Minnesota Department of Health and saw a matrix about “Number of cases per 10,000 over 14 days, by county of residence and Learning Model”...where do I find that data for my county?

The [Safe Learning Plan for 2020-2021](#) (PDF available at the bottom of that webpage) has a link on page 5 to [“bi-weekly case rate \(over 14 days\) by county of residence”](#). Example: on page 3 of that document, for the period of 7/5-7/18, the Stearns County average was 13.97.

43. How do I learn more about Minnesota's Safe Learning Plan?

Visit the state's [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) page.