



May 17, 2021

Dear RCS Families,

Today our seniors took their final walk through the hallways of our high schools to commemorate their time at Rochester Community Schools. Nothing about this pandemic has been predictable, but the Class of 2021 experienced an inner strength that propelled them to succeed. They will forever be bound together by their experience and their remarkable resilience in the face of adversity.

There is so much to celebrate as we near the end of the 2020-21 school year. RCS students are completing their 12th week of full-time, in-person instruction without any building closures or disruptions to operations. Downward trends in COVID-19 cases continue across Oakland County, and children ages 12 and up have the option of being vaccinated.

As we look to the 2021-22 school year, we anticipate being able to resume a six-period class day at the secondary level. Elementary students will continue to follow the traditional bell schedule.

You may be aware that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Service (MDHHS) recently provided [new guidance](#) for the general public regarding masks and social distancing; however, it's important to note that there have been no changes to school safety recommendations. Until further guidance is provided by state and county agencies, RCS students and staff members should plan to continue wearing masks indoors at school. Masks are optional for RCS students and staff during outdoor events or recess. We will continue to keep our school community updated as new guidance becomes available.

Following the release of the CDC and MDHHS guidance, the [Michigan High School Athletic Association](#) (MHSAA) announced the following:

- Masks are optional for outdoor activity, including outdoor contact sports.
- Fully vaccinated student-athletes are no longer required to wear a mask during indoor activity. In accordance with MDHHS guidelines, students are considered fully vaccinated 14 days after receiving the second dose of the Pfizer vaccine.
- Student-athletes who are not fully vaccinated must continue to wear a mask indoors until at least July 1 and continue with weekly COVID-19 testing.

Thank you for your support as we keep the focus on the safe education of our students. We truly value the meaningful collaboration with our family, school, business, and community partners, which remains integral for student growth and success.

Sincerely,
Dr. Robert Shaner
Superintendent