

Ralph R. Smith Elementary School

*16 Smith Court
PO Box 725
Hyde Park, New York 12538
845-229-4060*

Melissa Lawson

Principal

Dear RRS Families,

I am looking forward to welcoming students back this week. There have been many changes to our procedures and classroom design to make our school as safe as possible. Please read through the information below so that you are prepared for the hybrid model.

Student Schedule:

- 10/1 and 10/2: Kindergarten in the gold team and all 12:1:1 classes in person learning
- 10/5 and 10/6: Kindergarten in the green team and all 12:1:1 classes in person learning
- 10/7: Remote learning for all students
- 10/8 and 10/9: K – 5 students in the gold team for in person learning
- 10/12: No School
- 10/13: K – 5 students in the green team for in person learning
- 10/14: Remote learning for all students
- 10/15 and 10/16: K – 5 students in the gold team for in person learning

The schedule continues in this fashion. Mondays and Tuesdays are in person learning days for the green team. Wednesdays are remote learning days for all students. Thursdays and Fridays are the in person learning days for the gold team.

If you do not know the team your child is on, please contact your child's teacher or the main office.

Classroom Spaces:

- Furniture has been removed and desks are spread out in the classroom to allow for 6 feet of space between students.
- In K and grade 1 classrooms clear desk shields have been installed

Technology:

Please do not send your child's Chromebook to school. It should stay home to prevent possible damage. If you need technology support, please contact our Technology Department at 229-4004. In addition, our Technology Department is offering parent forums. Information can be found here: <https://www.hpcsd.org/Page/9>

Masks:

All students and staff are required to wear masks throughout the day. Masks will be provided if a student does not have one. Safe masks are defined as those that secure via ear loops, or with ties and have a close fit to the face. Cloth masks are acceptable. Three layer masks are the best and safest option. Face coverings with valves do not provide protection to the user or the school community nor do loose fitting bandanas, gaiters or scarves.

Mask Breaks;

We recognize that face coverings may be challenging for our students to wear all day, especially our youngest students. Desk barriers have been installed on all kindergarten and grade 1 desks to keep students safe. Mask breaks will be given at the discretion of the teacher or supervising adult. When possible, mask breaks will be taken outside.

Meals:

Students will be eating breakfast and lunch in the classroom. Breakfast will be a "grab and go" style with bags available for students upon entry to the building. Breakfast is free for all students.

Lunch is available for purchase through our kitchen. If you are purchasing meals, we ask that you use the online payment service, which can be found here: <https://www.hpcsd.org/Page/389>.

Lunch will be delivered directly to each classroom when students are at recess. Students will go to recess first this year so that their desks can be cleaned before they eat lunch.

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Cleaning:

Additional custodians will be on site to assist with cleaning throughout the day. The building will be cleaned thoroughly in between cohorts.

Isolation Room:

There will be an additional nurse on site to support students. We have created an additional nurse's office called an isolation room for students who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19.

Instruction:

We are committed to providing a robust curriculum to help your child learn and grow. On days that students will not be in school, lessons will be provided to learn remotely in the Google Classrooms.

On the days that your child comes to school, special area teachers will visit the classroom to deliver music, library, art and PE instruction. On remote days, lessons will be posted in Google Classrooms.

Visitors:

At this time, visitors to the building will be limited.

Arrival and Dismissal:

Please visit our website: [Ralph R. Smith Elementary School / RRS Homepage](#) to view a video that thoroughly explains our updated arrival and dismissal procedures. Safety is our top priority and we ask families to adhere to these guidelines during drop-off and pick-up. We do anticipate additional traffic as more families have indicated that they will be dropping off and picking up each day. This may result in a longer wait time. Please be patient and exercise caution. We will have additional staff to direct traffic during these busy times. You are asked to send a note letting us know if you plan to pick up your child. Please let us know on the

day that you will be picking up or, if you are planning to pick them up everyday, indicate as such and one note will suffice for the year.

I hope that this information has been helpful to you and your family as you prepare for the hybrid model. I look forward to welcoming back our students! Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lawson

Mrs. Lawson
Principal