

# Lois P. Rockwell Elementary School

Cheryl Clark, Principal ~ Rodney Isabell, Assistant Principal      February 19, 2021  
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## Rockwell Register

### *Special Edition: Return to School Plans*



Dear Rockwell Elementary Families,

Greetings! I hope you and your family are doing well. As you likely know, the Board of Education of Montgomery County met last week and voted to begin the safe return to in-person learning on **March 1st**. This will start with students in specific special education and Career and Technical Education programs. The Board also approved the phased-in return of students to in-person instruction beginning **March 15th**.

Teaching and learning online has become our routine and our norm for the current school year. To make this significant change to our program- to offer both online instruction as well as in-person instruction with all safety measures in place- has required a great deal of planning specific to Rockwell. We continue to analyze many factors to plan for the safe return of students on the timeline that was put in place by the MCPS Board of Education. We expect that we will continue to evolve and build our instructional programs as we move into this next phase of the 2020-21 school year.

Here is a break-down of some known specifics for Rockwell:

- **Your K-Grade 5 child has been placed on a virtual or in-person roster in your child's homeroom teacher's class based on the parent survey that was available to you in November and December 2020.** At this time, we are able to maintain that each child will continue with his/her current homeroom teacher. We believe this is vitally important as teachers have worked hard to form relationships with students and we want to continue to maintain these for students' academic success and well-being. We had over 90% of our families complete the preference survey. If for some reason you wish to change your preference, you must be in touch with Mr. Isabell, Assistant Principal or me by **February 26th**. A great deal of planning has gone into the in-person plan based on numbers of students. Moving your child from in-person to virtual will be completed upon receipt of your email. You will receive a confirmation email back noting the change. If you desire to move your child from virtual to in-person, we will do all that we can to have your child return but our ability to do this will be dependent upon space, staffing and the number of students on the in-person rosters. We will respond to all change requests via email.

- **Our parent return to school survey indicated that across each grade level in Kindergarten-Grade 5, 45-55% of parents opted for in person instruction for their child(ren).** Classrooms will be set up to accommodate 10-12 students per typical classroom. Larger classrooms will accommodate more students as needed. All students will be spaced 6 feet from one another and from adults in the room. Classroom teachers and support staff will serve students in classrooms using simultaneous (addressing in-person students and virtual students) support for virtual lessons and direct instruction throughout the day. Students will participate in art, music and PE weekly. Some of these classes may be virtual. Lunch, recess, and wellness breaks will be incorporated in the student day.
- **Rockwell will open doors for students with safety protocols and provisions in place.** Masks will be worn by all students and staff. Six-foot distancing will be taught to students and expected at all times.
- **Plans are underway to coordinate arrival and dismissal of students for bus and car pick up/drop-off.** Safety provisions will require a different arrangement than is typical at Rockwell for arrival and dismissal. This will include assigning entrance/exit doors to specific grade levels. We will communicate detailed plans prior to school beginning. Bus transportation will be provided for parents who elected this service on the parent return to school survey. Bus routes will be similar to past years. Detailed information about bus transportation will be communicated with parents prior to the start of school.
- **In-person learning for students whose parents chose this option in Kindergarten through Grade 2 students will return on March 15th.** Students will attend Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Wednesdays will remain virtual for all students.
- **Grade 3 Students whose parents chose in-person instruction will be placed in either group A or group B for return to school.** Groups A and B will alternate by weeks for the remainder of the school year or until new guidelines are given to us. Group A will begin in-person on **March 15th** and attend Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday while all other Grade 3 students attend virtually. Group B students will begin in-person classes on **March 22nd**.
- **Grade 4 and 5 students whose parents chose in-person instruction will be placed in either group A or group B for return to school.** Groups A and B will alternate by weeks for the remainder of the school year or until new guidelines are given to us. Group A will begin in-person on **March 22nd** and attend Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday while all other students attend virtually. Group B students will begin in-person on **April 6th**.
- Families with students in Grades 3, 4, and 5 who chose for their children to be in-person will be placed in like groups - either A or B so that their in-person and virtual weeks will align.
- **Preschool Education Program (PEP) classes will begin with in-person instruction on March 15th for those students whose parents chose this option. In-person instruction will be held Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesdays will remain virtual for all students.**
  - Mrs. McNab and Mrs. George will teach in-person in the morning (9:00-11:30 a.m.) to all of their students whose parents chose in-person. They will teach all of their students whose parents chose to stay virtual in the afternoon (12:55-3:25 p.m.)
  - Mrs. Ryan and Ms. Wilhelm will teach virtually in the morning (9:00-11:30 a.m.) to all of their students whose parents chose to stay virtual. They will teach all of their students whose parents chose in-person learning in the afternoon (12:55-3:25 p.m.)
  - Classroom instruction and related services (speech, OT, PT, etc.) will continue and more details will be shared with individual families as schedules are finalized.

- Bus transportation arrangements for individual PEP students whose parents chose for students to ride a bus will need to be submitted by PEP staff. PEP staff will contact parents to make these arrangements.

To further your understanding of a safe return the [Recovery of Education](#) guide was published last week as a result of the Board meeting and includes details we at school need to use in designing a safe reopening of the building. Please take time to review this information. As you review this system guide, please keep in mind that the exact program will vary from school to school based on a variety of factors including the numbers of students that each teacher has in person and virtually, the space available in each building and the staffing allotted to the school.

We know that parents will have many questions about our program as we gear up for the **March 15th** start. We will offer the following Virtual Parent Drop-in Meetings with Mr. Isabell and myself according to the schedule below. At these meetings, we will be able to present preliminary plans and discuss some details about our vision for in-person learning by grade levels. We will not have all details worked out, but we want to be available to parents for initial questions. The Zoom meeting information for all meetings can be accessed on your child's Zoom account: **Meeting ID: 891 8241 4285 Passcode: 973663**. Please be prepared to wait in the waiting room for your scheduled grade level meeting to begin.

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|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| PEP Parents          | Monday, March 22  | 5:30-5:50 PM |
| Kindergarten Parents | Monday, March 22  | 5:50-6:10 PM |
| Grade 1 Parents      | Monday, March 22  | 6:10-6:30 PM |
| Grade 2 Parents      | Tuesday, March 23 | 5:30-5:50 PM |
| Grade 3 Parents      | Tuesday, March 23 | 5:50-6:10 PM |
| Grade 4 & 5 Parents  | Tuesday, March 23 | 6:10-6:30 PM |

We are here to answer questions that you have as we continue our planning. Please reach out by email or telephone if you have questions. We want you to be informed about the weeks ahead. I want to thank you in advance for your continued support as we work in partnership to continue our successful distance learning instruction and gear up for an in-person experience as well.

Be well!

Sincerely,

*Cheryl Clark*

Principal

Lois P. Rockwell Elementary School

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