

July 27, 2020

Greetings Richard Carroll Elementary Family,

**Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year at RCES!** I certainly have missed “our” children over this extended summer break and look forward to the day that we are ALL together again. For the families new to our school – **WE WELCOME YOU** and look forward to getting to know you. RCES is a gem of a school, and we are so very fortunate to have dedicated parents, a supportive community, and a caring staff working together to ensure every child *learns with passion, leads with integrity, and succeeds with confidence!*

Our school theme this year will be **#Kindness still Rocks...Even in a Pandemic!** This theme reflects our 7 Habits and reminds us that we are one huge family even in the most difficult of times! We will eventually be taking orders for this year’s school t-shirt, so keep an eye out for an order form either virtually or in hard-copy format.

This year will certainly be like no other! So many have come together over the summer months to come up with the best plan to begin school and keep our students safe. The board recently approved a plan for students to return briefly during a **LEAP** week that begins on **August 17<sup>th</sup>**. During this week, your child will be assigned a half-day or two to come face-to-face at the school from 8:00-12:00. (Please see and adhere to the schedule below for each grade for LEAP week.) Classes will be kept very small and all safety measures will be taken. Several tasks required by the State Department of Education will be completed on these days to get us ready for the school year and to let teachers know where each student is in ELA and math. These include:

- meeting his/her teacher;
- assigning student Chromebooks for virtual learning,
- delivering basic instruction on Google Classroom procedures for virtual learning;
- administering important grade level assessments (MAP, DRA, KRA, STAR, etc...);
- reviewing procedures for your chosen instruction (virtual/face-to-face).

The two weeks that follow (**August 24<sup>th</sup> – September 4<sup>th</sup>**), *all* students will participate in virtual instruction using their Chromebooks and Google Classroom. Your child’s teacher(s) will be connecting and teaching virtually from the school and will be operating on a schedule much like the actual school day. We know this will be new and different for everyone, but we also know that with your collaboration and encouragement from home, we will succeed! Teachers have been preparing over the summer for this new reality.

After Labor Day (**Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**) is when things get interesting!!! This is the time when your instructional choice will begin. On this day, if you registered for virtual learning for your child, then you will stay on the same online teaching schedule you were using in the weeks prior. Parents who chose the face-to-face option will send their child/children to school on September 8<sup>th</sup>! The pages attached outline what virtual learning and face-to-face instruction





will look like. The school of 2019-20 is no more, and we have fortunately been able to practice the new safety procedures in our summer camp, with a small group of students, during the month of July. For those that chose face-to-face, we are READY to see your children and teach them safely!

**Newsletters and other information will be posted via Google Classroom and our school website: <https://rces.bamberg1.net/news>. We will not send home paper copies anymore.**

Your child will receive information on how to access this when he/she begins school and gets their login information set up. We also plan to offer parent training on Google Classroom again this year. If you are the parent of a student participating in virtual learning, we HIGHLY recommend making time for this training! You will become our partner teachers!

Please be aware that no matter which version of learning your child participates in this year, virtual or face-to-face, attendance will be taken and assignments will be graded accordingly. There will be no more learning packets to pick up and turn in and each eLearning assignment will be weighted and treated with the same expectation as one completed in class.

If your child will be attending school each day at RCES, please consider dropping your child off and picking them up if at all possible. Buses will be limited to approximately 35 students per bus to allow for social distancing.

Please review the important information in your child's agenda/paperwork that will be brought home during LEAP week. This information includes the handbook, code of conduct, and various forms that **must be signed and returned** the first week of school.

The **School Supply List** will be placed on our school website and in local stores (Family Dollar and Dollar General), as well as, the Orangeburg Walmart for your convenience.

The Raidertown community would like to welcome the following staff members:

Mrs. Lisa Ferguson - 6<sup>th</sup> grade math

Mr. Blake Cramer – Music

Mrs. Sharon Smoak – School RN

In conclusion, I, along with the administration and staff at RCES, look forward to “Rocking Kindness” during a school year that will be like no other! We ask that you continue to be patient and flexible as we continue to navigate all the hurdles presented by COVID 19.

Educationally,

Stacey Walter, Principal

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## LEAP Week Schedule

August 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>

8:00-12:00

| Date(s) to Attend   | Grade Levels   |
|---------------------|--|
| Monday August 17    | 5K, 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> (Last names ending in A – N) |
| Tuesday August 18   | 5K, 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> (Last names ending in O – Z) |
| Wednesday August 19 | 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> (Last names ending in A – N)     |
| Thursday August 20  | 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> (Last names ending in O – Z)     |
| Friday August 21    | Pre-K, Mrs. Mitchell, Miss Williams  |

\*\*\*Students are broken down by last names on designated days to adhere to lesser volumes of students in the building and classroom.

We ask that you follow these guidelines so that we can get ALL (both virtual and face-to-face) students in to get baseline data/technology distributed and so forth for the start of the year.



## **RCES Safety Procedures** *(LEAP Week and Face-to-Face Instruction)*

All DHEC and CDC guidelines will be followed to include:

- Social Distancing will be enforced in the classrooms and walking down the halls.
- Teachers, staff, and administrators will be wearing facemasks at *all* times.
- Students will be encouraged to wear facemasks while riding the bus, walking through the halls, and in the classroom when social distancing is difficult (i.e. small group instruction).
- No outside visitors will be allowed in the building at any time.
- Detailed instructions will be given on hand-washing and hand sanitizing.
- Multiple hand sanitizer stations will be placed around the school building.
- Schedules will be adjusted to minimize passing in the hallways.
- Upper grades students will not switch classes. The teachers will move from class to class to deliver their content to minimize sharing desks and materials and to avoid contacts in the hall.
- *Prekindergarten - grade 3* will utilize the cafeteria for breakfast and lunch. Students will be spaced at ends of rectangular tables all facing forward spaced 4 feet apart. Both schedules for these grade levels will allow for classes to rotate in and out with all PPE precautions in place. Custodians will clean tables between sittings.
- *Grades 4 - 6* will eat both breakfast and lunch in the classrooms. It will be delivered by cart at designated times and any trash will be placed in a trash bag, the bag placed back in the cart, and the cart retrieved by the custodians to be cleaned for the next day.
- All water fountains will be shut down or covered for non-use. Each student at RCES will use a water bottle during the day. Water bottle filling stations will be installed in the school.
- The school will work to cap class sizes. Class sizes that have been established by health authority will not be exceeded when class schedules are constructed. Student desks will be socially distanced to the extent possible. Extra furniture will be removed from classrooms and the use of partner groups and group activities will be limited. The school will maximize the use of the larger spaces found on campus.
- Strict protocols will be in place if a student/teacher shows signs and symptoms of CO-VID to include:
  - referral to nurse;
  - individual placed in isolation room;
  - a parent/authorized Powerschool contact will be called to pick up a sick student;
  - clearance from a health professional before returning to school.

