



LESTER C. NOECKER SCHOOL

ROSELAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

July 17, 2020

Dear Noecker School Community,

On behalf of the Roseland Board of Education, I would like to thank you all again for your ideas, questions, and encouragement throughout this process! I recognize how challenging this is for you and your families as I, too, feel the weight and uncertainty day to day. Focusing on the health and safety of our school community makes it clearer for me, but I know that does not necessarily help you as you envision navigating September and beyond.

At the August meeting it will be recommended for the Board to approve a [2020-2021 School Calendar revision](#). Students will begin the Tuesday after Labor Day (September 8th). This provides us time to train our staff on all aspects of our reopening the week prior. Students will now be IN school on October 12 and February 16 ([CALENDAR](#)). It is imperative that you are cognizant of guidelines for quarantining upon return from [identified areas](#) as travel after August 25th will impact your child's ability to attend school on September 8th.

We thank you all for your thoughts and ideas during our Open Forum on scheduling and transportation! After careful consideration, much problem-solving, scheduling, and number crunching, **our reopening schedule** will be:

PreK - Schedule is Unchanged

K - 2 Every Day Split Sessions AM 8:30-11:15 and PM 12:45-3:30

- *K-2 Classrooms, bathrooms (one in each classroom), and small instructional rooms used require 90 minutes to clean thoroughly between sessions.
- *Opportunity for remote specials/services opposite AM/PM
- *K-2 students with siblings in Grades 3-6 would be in the AM for transportation purposes
- *NO option to select AM/PM (assignments are transportation, sibling, and SE driven)

Grades 3 - 6 A day/B day - Minimum Day (1:05 Dismissal)

- *Teachers "live" with offsite groups in the afternoon (grades 3-6)
- *Opportunity for remote specials/services on offsite days
- *[A day/B day SURVEY - Please Complete by July 21st](#)

ALL GRADES

- *No Lunch/Recess
- *Smaller groups - 6 ft social distancing in place
- *Mandated mask usage
- *Potential Coordination with the Y - TBD
- * Planning to include a Remote Learning option
- *Siblings would be on the same schedule (A day/B day or transportation)

Why K-2 on split sessions every day? There is a developmental window for early literacy/number sense and the younger grades are incredibly challenged with remote learning. Our students in grades 3 - 6 are more independent remotely. Our instructional focus will be on strengthening our remote learning and hybrid instruction.

Please note that after considerable discussion and consultation, the Roseland School District will be **mandating mask usage** for all students. In addition to six feet social distancing, barriers for desk, and small class sizes, we have determined that following the CDC and [The Road Back](#) recommendations encouraging mask usage supports our **primary goal of ensuring the health and safety of every person in our building**. Exceptions will be made on an individual basis with the appropriate medical need. **We must do everything we can to protect each other**. Additionally, windows and doors will be open for cross breezes, outside time will be built into every day (weather permitting), mask “breaks” will be incorporated, and numerous additional safety measures will be in place. Our **Health and Safety Subcommittee** still has much work to do! Please see **updates** in the [FAQ PAGE](#) and continue to utilize the [FAQ Form](#); it is updated weekly!

Our [Back to School “Restart” Subcommittees](#) of administrators, Board members, teachers, community members, and parents have been hard at work on some of our most critical areas: opening schedule, transportation, and health and safety! We are excited to move into the next phase of coordinating with subcommittees such as **Special Education/SEPAC** on how to best support their needs, our **Online Learning/Assessment** to support and enhance hybrid and remote instruction, and the **Social Emotional Learning** on nurturing the needs of our students, staff, and parents (as well as the **continued Health and Safety and Logistical work** of arrival, dismissal, classrooms, and staff and student scheduling)! There are many components to address in a very short period of time, but we have [AMAZING and DEDICATED people involved!](#)

Please stay tuned for dates as we look forward to sharing with you all during **future Open Forums** on Health & Safety, Instruction/SE and “How Will This Work? Procedures.” We have updated our Zoom account! Our apologies once again for our first Open Forum at which we exceeded capacity. Please see **updates** in the [FAQ PAGE](#) and continue to utilize the [FAQ Form](#); it is updated weekly!

Our next steps, in addition to the work of the subcommittees listed above, is to complete our class assignments (AM/PM or A day/B day) to share with you. We recognize this is a critical area in your own planning. Please also anticipate additional surveys pertaining to your families’ plans for school in September, technology needs, and transportation for those not eligible for mandated bus services.

I thank you for your patience and understanding throughout this incredible situation. My heart breaks for our students and their compromises, but they will follow us. Eleanor Roosevelt said, “*We gain strength, and courage, and confidence by each experience in which we really stop to look fear in the face...we must do that which we think we cannot.*” We will do this together!

Stay well! All the best,

Deanne Somers, Superintendent