

Dear River Bend Families,

3/23/21

I wanted to provide an update that will guide the rest of our school year. On March 9, 2021 the Illinois State Board of Education came out with a new update for schools. The full version of the updates can be found at:

<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/revised-public-health-guidance-for-schools.pdf>

Along with many other updates three important items will have an impact for the River Bend Schools.

1. **Revised guidance states that social distancing is appropriate between 3 and 6 feet.** This will help support smaller classrooms to have more students and return to a more traditional format. IDPH did not change quarantine guidelines. Close contact quarantines still use 6 feet as a minimum distance.
2. **Revised guidance no longer requires daily screenings to enter school.** River Bend will no longer be taking temperatures and screening students/visitors upon arrival after spring break. Families will be asked to acknowledge that daily screenings will be done at home and that students will not be sent to school if Covid symptoms exist. A separate google form that requires parents to acknowledge the daily screening process at home will be emailed home by the building principals. Each family must complete this form one time. Here is a link to the form: <https://forms.gle/a5f6BcpPiiGDyYP56>
3. **Remote learning options are no longer required with the exception of those with increased risk of severe illness, those with special medical needs, or live with someone who is considered to have a medical risk.** River Bend currently has about 60 students/families who still choose to attend fully remotely. River Bend will continue to offer remote learning through the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Full time remote will **NOT** be offered next year unless medically necessary and supported through a physician's referral. If remote learning is necessary for a student, a third party vendor option will most likely be offered. River Bend would pay for the third party vendor to supply remote learning to families. River Bend would like to return to a full day throughout the entire 2021-2022 school year.

April-May 2021:

Careful and thoughtful consideration has been given toward extending the school day to 2:30 PM. However we still have about 60 students that are attending school remotely. A great deal of time and planning go into helping the remote students. Teachers and staff have also found the following advantages to working with students during the 1:30 to 3:00 PM time frame.

FES

- **Student Interventions to support struggling learners**
 - Grades K-2 are implementing reading and math intervention services for students 4 days per week.
 - Grades 3-5 are focusing on student support and failing grades 4 days per week.

RBMS

- **Student Interventions to support struggling learners**
 - 6-8 Students that are failing a class have been required to stay to work on those grades.
 - We have reduced our failure rate to 7% of students failing a class.
 - While our remote learners are low, we also use this time to work with students that have been absent, quarantined or remote learners.

FHS

- **Student Interventions that support struggling learners**
 - Freshmen with one D or F are required to stay the entire week until 3:00
 - Currently serving around 30 students
 - Sophomores with at least one F are required to stay the entire week until 3:00
 - Currently serving about 20 students
 - Junior/Senior intervention will start after spring break
 - Anticipate about 50 juniors/seniors qualifying to stay until 3:00 PM.
- **Supporting Remote Learners**
 - FHS currently has 54 remote students (18.6% of all the FHS student population)

End of Year activities:

8th grade (Thursday, May 20th) and HS (Sunday, May 23rd) graduation - We would like to see as many family members as allowed attend graduations in-person. We will be submitting a plan to the Whiteside County Health Department for approval. At the moment, an outdoor graduation will most likely allow maximum flexibility.

Prom/Homecoming- The Illinois Department of Public Health has allowed local school boards to plan what proms and homecomings might look like as long as they are approved locally and meet IDPH guidelines. Our high school staff is gathering information from students and families and will submit a plan or work with parents who have already established plans.

Field Days- Each school will be working with our local health department to plan activities that meet the guidelines and allow for a safe celebration of an incredibly challenging year.

Summer School- River Bend expects to have summer school in some manner to address learning loss. We recognize that learning loss will be different for each student. Summer school plans look to incorporate a 2-3 week period in early June from 9:00 to 11:30. Students will be prioritized based on learning loss needs. We also realize that some students will need additional time to complete work that is missing or was not completed during the school year. Summer tutoring and summer enrichment activities will also be planned.

Student Meals- River Bend will once again offer summer breakfast and lunch meals to all families that wish to participate. Similar to last year, meals for an entire week will be prepared for pick-up and delivery. Families will be sent a sign up form which will need to be completed each week. Meal pick-up times will be posted along with delivery locations.

Registration for the 2021-2022 school year- Registration information will be sent home in May or June. We will once again use an online registration process that will start July 6, 2021. The first day of school will be Wednesday August 18, 2021. Because remote learning is not required we are planning on a full day of school. Those requiring remote learning due to medical reasoning will be supplied with a third party vendor option.

You have all been incredibly supportive and vigilant throughout this school year. The River Bend staff are grateful and want to continue supporting children as best we can. Our planning and communication efforts could easily change at a moment's notice. We will provide any necessary updates if plans change. I wish you all a great spring break as well as a spring full of warm weather, and a summer that brings normality.

Darryl Hogue