



**Rankin School District #98
2021-2022 School Year**

“Emerging Stronger Together”

7/26/21

***Plan approved subject to change**

OVERVIEW

On May, 28, 2021, Rankin School District #98 persevered through the global pandemic and successfully completed the 2020-2021 school year. The District continues to monitor the pandemic and the associated guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Tazewell County Health Department (TCHD). Also, our District collaborates with other Illinois public school districts and receives guidance from Miller, Hall & Triggs (District’s legal counsel). In addition, the District once again established a Planning Team of stakeholders to assist with development of this School Plan for the 2021-2022 school year. Our plan is a culmination of the work of the Planning Team and from the sources listed above.

The District is extremely grateful for all stakeholders who served on the Planning Team. As was the case last year, a high level of teamwork and engagement was present in the Planning Team as we strived to develop a plan that was in the best interest of the students we serve. This plan was presented and approved at the Rankin Board of Education Regular Meeting held on June 28, 2021. When approved, it was noted that our plan is fluid and should be considered “subject to change” as the District will continually be monitoring, evaluating, and assessing our plan as we respond and adjust to the ongoing happenings related to the pandemic. Also, some components of this plan are currently described as “may” or “TBD” (to be determined). In those instances, the District would need to update this plan and reserved the right to alter and adjust this plan at any time. All parts of the plan are subject to revision as guidance or local circumstances change.

Please note that grey highlights are provided to reflect a majority of the updates approved by the Board of Education at the July 26, 2021, Regular Meeting. For questions related to this plan and for ease of communication, please email the Administrative Team (Dr. Matt Gordon, mgordon@rankin98.org and April McLaughlin amclaughlin@rankin98.org) so we can assist you accordingly.

FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS OF PLAN

Our District's Mission of "Empowering all students to reach their maximum potential and become productive, respectful, responsible, and well-rounded citizens" is combined with our Vision of "Building the foundation of the future by engaging youth through rigorous and diverse educational opportunities." In accomplishing the District's Mission and furthering our Vision last year, an extraordinary amount of communication, flexibility, character, teamwork, and resilience was needed.

Emerging Stronger Together is the goal as we continue the efforts described above again this year. Rankin becoming a stronger/better organization as a result of the monumental challenges we have faced, greatly benefits our students!

Let's continue working TOGETHER for what is best for our students. In regards to communication, it is imperative that staff and parents make the District aware of any COVID-19 health situations. Please be prepared for the District to ask specific questions regarding symptoms related to absences. The District, while protecting the identity of students and staff, will always strive to keep everyone informed as best as possible.

PHILOSOPHY

The safety and well-being of our students and staff remains the District's top priority. Further, the District has prioritized providing In-Person Learning that closely resembles, as much as possible, a return to teaching and learning in pre-pandemic conditions.

The District understands that vaccination is not currently required. We respect, value, and care for all of our students and staff regardless of their vaccination status. Vaccination information can be accessed here [TCHD Vaccine Link](#). Also, at this point in time, the District largely views the vaccination status of students and staff as private information; however, this information can be helpful when making decisions for students and staff related to COVID-19 for this school year. In the District's Mitigation Levels I & II, procedures for vaccinated and unvaccinated are similar with minor differences as the District prefers to avoid as much as possible the potential for creating a divisive environment in our school related to vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. Please do be aware that it's possible, depending on the specific situation and the current Mitigation Level, that the District will inquire about vaccination statuses and vaccination documentation via seeking the information from students/parents and staff in a voluntary manner. Further, it is possible, especially when in Mitigation Level III, that the District may require proof of vaccination. Proof will not be generally mandated under current guidance, but mitigation measures may differ for those who provide proof of vaccination as set forth in Federal and State guidance. However, if an individual or parent wishes to avoid application of certain mitigation measures required by guidance for unvaccinated individuals, proof of vaccination will be necessary. The District realizes that this practice may not be ideal and/ or popular with some; however, this information may be needed to help the District continue to provide In-Person Learning, which, along with safety, is a top-priority of the District.

Please note that our approach to mitigation measures should be considered multi-tiered and will be based on the current local conditions. The District's Mitigation Levels are different procedures and strategies within the levels designed to mitigate the spread of the virus based on the data and conditions in our school and within the county our school resides in. We certainly commit to keeping everyone regularly updated regarding our plan throughout this entire school year, including when/if the need exists to change the Mitigation Level in our District.

Please do note that upon the daily reporting of symptoms, the District does request to know if the symptoms are within a 3-day window of receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. Various symptoms may be attributed to the 3-day window of receiving the vaccine. The day of receiving the vaccine is considered day one. Also, in regards to vaccination status, the CDC defines fully vaccinated as "people are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 ≥ 2 weeks after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or ≥ 2 weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson [J&J]/Janssen).

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

PLAN GUIDANCE

When procedures and protocols are described as recommended, the District understands that the parents of our students make the final decisions for their children, and that our individual staff members make the final decisions for themselves. When procedures and protocols are described as required and/or listed as a must, the District has made the decision.

RESPONSIBILITY OF RANKIN COMMUNITY

Protecting everyone from COVID-19 and other illnesses is everyone's responsibility and relates to the following:

- Students and staff **must** stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and contact the school for a review on return. Also, it is preferred that all students and staff experiencing signs of any infectious illness contact their healthcare provider for further evaluation. Special attention is required for students and staff when experiencing:
 - Fever - The District is considering greater than 100.4 as the threshold for fever.
 - Other symptoms of COVID-19 - The known COVID-19 symptoms can be found [HERE](#).
 - Suspecting a positive case of COVID-19
 - Awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test
 - Receiving a positive result of a COVID-19 test
- Students and staff need to notify the school when awaiting a COVID-19 test, when suspecting a positive case of COVID-19, and/or when results of the COVID-19 tests are received (positive or negative).
- The District will expect all staff and students to attend school only when healthy.

MITIGATION LEVELS

As noted, the District is taking a multi-tiered approach to mitigating the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The District will determine mitigation levels by consulting the [IDPH Tazewell County Detailed Metrics & School Metrics](#) and our [School's Daily Statistics](#) (i.e. daily number of positive cases and quarantines for students and staff). Each Mitigation Level has additional mitigation strategies to assist in keeping the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses to a minimum.

Unless notified otherwise, the 21-22 school year will begin at **Mitigation Level 1** described as **(Baseline for 21-22 during Global Pandemic)**.

The Administration will continually assess the appropriate Mitigation Level for the District. Consideration to adjust the Mitigation Level of the District will be based upon the following:

1. The daily number of current positive cases and quarantines for students and staff within Rankin School District #98.
2. The determination of Minimal, Moderate, and Substantial for Tazewell County's metrics of the:
 - Weekly New Case Rate Per 100,000 People
 - Weekly Count of New Cases Increase
 - Weekly Count of New Youth Cases Increase
 - Weekly Test Positivity

With the consideration of the above, a determination may be made by the Administration to increase the Mitigation Level for the District when:

1. The daily number of current positive cases and quarantines for students and staff within Rankin School District #98 are increasing substantially.

AND/OR

2. Three of the four IDPH Metrics are deemed Substantial or greater.

*The Administration will also strive to consult with the Tazewell County Health Department before adjusting the District's Mitigation Level. The District will also pride itself on regular, ongoing communication and updates that will be provided to the Rankin Community.

STRATEGIES FOR MITIGATING RISKS AT ALL LEVELS

- Social Distancing - While it is important that our students interact with each other on a daily basis, the social distancing concept will be continued in attempt to avoid the spread of the virus. The District will strive for 3-feet or greater of physical distancing throughout our classrooms and building to the extent possible.

- Modifying facilities, when possible, to allow for physical distancing.
- The adjusted approach for last year of school-wide cleaning and disinfecting procedures during the school day (i.e. cleaning of high-touch areas during the school day) will continue this year until further notice.
- Regular handwashing and respiratory etiquette will be promoted daily.
- Face Coverings (**Outdoors**) = In general, individuals do not need to wear masks when outdoors unless it is determined that our area is experiencing substantial to high transmission. It is recommended that individuals (age 2 or older) who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during outdoor activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated.
- Face Coverings (**Transportation**) = All individuals (age 2 or older), must wear face coverings while on the bus.
- Seating charts will be utilized in the classrooms and for busses.
- Providing accommodations for students with disabilities who have special needs.
- Athletics/Co-curriculars/Extracurriculars - Determined by IESA's guidance in combination with our school plan's protocols and procedures.
- Last school year's adjusted pick-up plan for the end of the school day for students (i.e. multiple doors and pickup points) will continue this year until further notice.

STRATEGIES FOR MITIGATING RISKS AT LEVELS I, II, & III

- **Mitigation Levels I (Baseline for 21-22 during Global Pandemic)**
 - Screening - students and staff self-monitor daily for COVID-19 symptoms.
 - Face coverings (**Indoors**) are recommended for all individuals (age 2 and older) when indoors who are not fully vaccinated.
 - Quarantines - The District will contact trace, notify, and evaluate those (notifying students directly depends on the age) who are considered close contacts (within 3-feet over 15 minutes cumulative). Parents of the students who are considered close contacts will also be notified and be expected to continuously, closely monitor their child for COVID-19 symptoms. Quarantines will only be implemented when individuals who are deemed as close contacts experience COVID-19 symptoms, unless they are household members of the close contacts. Generally, vaccinated students or staff who are close contacts of household members, who are not experiencing symptoms, will not be required to quarantine. Vaccination status will be requested and proof may be required for students or staff seeking abbreviated quarantine period as offered under current guidance.
- **Mitigation Level II (Moderate for 21-22 during Global Pandemic)**
 - Screening - students and staff daily COVID-19 symptom checks at school are implemented (i.e. morning temperature checks and daily monitoring admission/symptom tickets).
 - Face coverings (**Indoors**) are recommended for all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated.
 - Quarantines - The District will contact trace, notify, and evaluate those (notifying students directly depends on the age) who are considered close

contacts (within 3-6 feet over 15 minutes cumulative). Parents of the students who are considered close contacts will also be notified and expected to continuously, closely monitor their child for COVID-19 symptoms. Quarantines will only be implemented when individuals who are deemed as close contacts experience COVID-19 symptoms, unless they are household members of the close contacts. Generally, vaccinated students or staff who are close contacts of household members, who are not experiencing symptoms, will not be required to quarantine. Vaccination status will be requested and proof may be required for students or staff seeking abbreviated quarantine period as offered under current guidance.

- Consideration of utilizing water fountains only for refillable bottles will occur.
- No visitors unless approved by Administration for educational purposes.
- Breakfast and/or lunch locations will be increased for additional spacing.
- Students will not change for P.E.
- An increase in morning before school stations will be considered.

• **Mitigation Level III (Substantial for 21-22 during Global Pandemic)**

- Students and staff daily symptom screening (temperature checks and daily monitoring admission/symptom tickets) are implemented.
- Face coverings are required to be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated. District may request proof of vaccination status.
- Quarantines - The District will contact trace, notify, and evaluate those (notifying students directly depends on the age) who are considered close contacts (within 6-feet over 15 minutes cumulative). Parents of the close contacts will also be notified. Quarantines will be implemented for those who are not fully vaccinated, excluding those who have had COVID-19 within the last 3 months, regardless of experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or not. Vaccination status will be requested and proof may be required for students or staff desiring the treatment of avoiding restrictions of quarantining.
- Consideration of utilizing water fountains only for refillable bottles will occur.
- No visitors, unless Administration deems necessary for student services.
- Breakfast and/or lunch locations will be increased for additional spacing.
- Students will not use locker rooms and will not change for P.E.
- Students congregating during unstructured times will be limited to the extent possible.
- An increase in the number of morning before school stations may occur to allow for additional spacing.
- Passing periods may be tiered to allow for more distancing in hallways.
- Field trips, assemblies, and some programs may be canceled or postponed.
- Consideration of a Special Board Meeting will occur to review if additional plan guidance for the remainder of the school year is needed.

CLOSE CONTACT

A close contact is defined as any individual who was:

- Within 3-feet (Mitigation Level I)
- Within 3-6 feet (Mitigation Level II)
- Within 6-feet (Mitigation Level III) of:

someone who tested positive or is a probable positive case for at least 15 minutes (cumulative throughout the day) starting from two days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, two days prior to positive specimen collection) regardless of whether or not a face covering was worn.

In Mitigation Levels I & II, students or staff, identified as close contacts who are **NOT EXPERIENCING ANY SYMPTOMS** or have had lab-confirmed COVID-19 within the past 90 days, are not required to quarantine, unless they are household members of the close contacts. Generally, vaccinated students or staff who are close contacts of household members, who are not experiencing symptoms, will not be required to quarantine. Vaccination status will be requested and proof may be required for students or staff desiring the treatment of avoiding restrictions of quarantining.

In Mitigation Level III, students or staff identified as close contacts, who are not fully vaccinated or who have not had COVID-19 within the last 3-months, will need to quarantine regardless if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. Fully vaccinated students or staff who are not experiencing symptoms, will not need to quarantine. Vaccination status will be requested and proof may be required for students and staff desiring this treatment of avoiding restrictions of quarantining.

UNVACCINATED/VACCINATED SYMPTOMATIC INDIVIDUALS, NO NEGATIVE TEST (PCR)

A process to determine whether unvaccinated/vaccinated **symptomatic** individuals, untested, should be subject to prolonged quarantine will be utilized. Vaccination status may be requested and considered in these cases. Proof of vaccination status may be requested in these cases depending on the District's current Mitigation Level. In addition, the following two steps will be utilized:

Step 1:

Check for the following symptoms, which indicate possible COVID-19 illness that puts persons at risk for spreading the illness to others:

- Temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Sore throat
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, the baseline is a change in their cough)
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever
- Shortness of breath

Step 2:

If the individual has any of the above symptoms and the potential exposure to COVID-19, a prolonged quarantine may be implemented depending on the current Mitigation Level of the District.

Potential exposure by a person is defined as:

- Had close contact with a person with confirmed COVID-19 (see definition of “close contact” above, which varies slightly based on the District’s current Mitigation Level);
- Traveled to or lived in an area where the local, Tribal, territorial, or state health department is reporting large numbers of COVID-19 cases;
- Live in areas of high community transmission while the school remains open.

UNVACCINATED/VACCINATED PERSON - SYMPTOMS, BUT NO POTENTIAL EXPOSURE

In District Mitigation Levels I & II, if the individual has any symptoms listed in Step 1, but has not had potential exposure as outlined in Step 2, generally, the individual will be excused from school in accordance with existing school illness management policy (e.g., until symptom-free for 24 hours without fever reducing medications and have had no diarrhea or vomiting in the previous 24 hours). Other illnesses have specific criteria for when a student or staff member can return to school [Illnesschart](#). In District Mitigation Level III, a prolonged quarantine may be implemented for both unvaccinated and possibly vaccinated persons.

VACCINATED PERSON - SYMPTOMS, POTENTIAL EXPOSURE

If the vaccinated individual has any symptoms listed in Step 1 and has had potential exposure as outlined in Step 2, generally, the individual will be excused from school in accordance with existing school illness management policy (e.g., until symptom-free for 24 hours without fever reducing medications and have had no diarrhea or vomiting in the previous 24 hours). In District Mitigation Level III, a prolonged quarantine may be implemented. The District may request proof of vaccination status for students or staff desiring the treatment of avoid restrictions of quarantining. Other diseases have specific criteria for when a student or staff member can return to school [Illnesschart](#).

UNVACCINATED PERSON - SYMPTOMS, POTENTIAL EXPOSURE, and NEGATIVE PCR TEST

If the unvaccinated individual has any symptoms listed in Step 1 and has had potential exposure as outlined in Step 2, the individual should be referred for evaluation by their healthcare provider and for possible testing. Individuals who have received a negative test (PCR) result, generally, will be allowed to return to school once their symptoms have otherwise improved in accordance with existing school illness management policies (e.g., until symptom-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications, have had no diarrhea or vomiting in the previous 24 hours, and in compliance with the above specific criteria for other diseases). If the conditions of an outbreak or high community transmission exists, a NAAT negative test is required to avoid a prolonged quarantine.

UNVACCINATED PERSON - SYMPTOMS, POTENTIAL EXPOSURE, and NO NEGATIVE PCR TEST

Individuals who have any of the symptoms listed in Step 1 and have had potential exposure as outlined in step 2, without negative test results, should stay home, isolate themselves from others, monitor their health, and follow directions from their state or local health department, unless an alternative diagnosis is certified from a medical provider. In absence of a negative test, these individuals should isolate as if they have tested positive. Persons may be able to return with an alternate diagnosis certified by a medical provider.

- Isolate at home for 14-days from the first day symptoms appeared, AND
- Fever-free without fever-reducing medication for 24 hours, AND
- No diarrhea or vomiting in the previous 24 hours, AND
- Other symptoms have improved for 24 hours.

UNVACCINATED/VACCINATED PERSON - POSITIVE TEST, SYMPTOMATIC

- Isolate at home for 10 days from the date symptoms began, AND
- Fever-free without fever-reducing medication for 24 hours, AND
- No diarrhea or vomiting in the previous 24 hours, AND
- Other symptoms have improved for 24 hours, AND
- A release letter from the TCHD or medical provider is required (unless TCHD or the medical provider is overwhelmed and can't provide letter in a timely manner) prior to returning to school/work.

UNVACCINATED/VACCINATED PERSON - POSITIVE TEST, ASYMPTOMATIC

- Isolate at home for 10 days from the day the test was taken. If the individual does not develop symptoms, he/she may return 10 days after the positive test was taken.
- If the individual develops symptoms, then isolation time starts on day 1 of symptoms.
- Isolate at home for 10 days from the date symptoms began, AND
- Fever-free without fever-reducing medication for 24 hours, AND
- No diarrhea or vomiting in the previous 24 hours, AND
- Other symptoms have improved for 24 hours, AND
- A release letter from the TCHD or a medical provider is required (unless TCHD or the medical provider is overwhelmed and can't provide letter in a timely manner) prior to returning to school/work.

UNVACCINATED PERSON HAVING CLOSE CONTACT TO SOMEONE WITH A CONFIRMED OR PROBABLE POSITIVE COVID-19 CASE

The student/parent or staff member will need to report this situation to the school. For Mitigation Levels I & II, students and staff members in this situation, who are not experiencing any symptoms, will not be required to quarantine, unless they are household members of the close contacts.

In Mitigation Level III, students or staff identified in this situation of a household close contact, who are not fully vaccinated or have had COVID-19 within the last 3-months will need to quarantine regardless whether they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or not. The District may request proof of vaccination status for students or staff desiring this treatment of avoiding restrictions of quarantining. If the unvaccinated person is in close contact within the same household as the person testing positive, the quarantine period may be extended 10 days after person testing positive completes his/her isolation period. If the close contact develops symptoms, the isolation/quarantine period may change including extending the quarantine period following the positive or probable contact's isolation from 10 to 14 days. It's possible the quarantine length could last multiple weeks depending on all of the factors involved (i.e. testing date, symptoms, and date of notification etc.) Consideration will be given to those who can quarantine separately from the person who is COVID-19 positive or probable. A release letter from the TCHD or a medical provider is required (unless TCHD is overwhelmed and can't provide letter in a timely manner) prior to returning to school/work (click below to access a release letter) <https://www.tazewellhealth.org/381/CORONAVIRUS-COVID-19>. Those in close contact should consult their physician for further guidance regarding testing options.

QUARANTINES IN MITIGATION LEVEL III

While in Mitigation Level III, unvaccinated students and staff will initially be assumed to be under a 10-day quarantine for close contact with a non-household member, unless a desire or willingness to be tested exists (as indicated below) or there are any immediate symptoms present. A 10-day quarantine is only allowed under the following provision:

- The unvaccinated student and staff must not have any symptoms at all for the entire duration of the 10 days; otherwise, the quarantine reverts to a normal, 14-day quarantine. The onset of any symptoms must be immediately reported to the nurse at TBD.
- Quarantine day #1 begins after the day of the last close contact date.
- Upon completion of the 10-day or 14-day quarantine, the following requirements apply to return:
 - Fever-free without fever-reducing medication for 24 hours, AND
 - Other symptoms have improved for 24 hours. AND
 - No diarrhea or vomiting in the previous 24 hours, AND
 - A release letter from the TCHD or a medical provider is required (unless TCHD or the medical provider is overwhelmed and can't provide letter in a timely manner) prior to returning to school/work (click below to access a release letter) <https://www.tazewellhealth.org/381/CORONAVIRUS-COVID-19>
- Shortened, 7-Day Healthy Quarantine for unvaccinated staff members (staff only as provision is not for students at this time), who test (PCR) negative, to return to school after just 7 days, under these provisions:
 - The qualifying negative test must be a PCR test, and not a rapid, antigen or antibody test. The test must not occur prior to day 6 of the quarantine.

- Before returning, the staff member must provide the nurse with proof of the test result and be given approval to return to work. A TCHD or medical provider letter is preferred; however, it may not be issued due to the shortened quarantine protocol. The TCHD link for access a letter is provided <https://www.tazewellhealth.org/381/CORONAVIRUS-COVID-19>.
- The employee must not have any symptoms at all for the entire duration of the 7 days; otherwise, the quarantine reverts to a normal, 14-day quarantine. The onset of any symptoms must be reported to the nurse immediately.
- Staff are not required to opt for the 7-day quarantine, nor required to be tested.
- Due to the possible delay in PCR test results, the quarantine may result in an 8- or 9-day quarantine.

UNVACCINATED HOUSEHOLD MEMBER/SIBLING OF A PERSON WHO HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS:

Does not need to quarantine unless the person with symptoms becomes a positive, confirmed case or a probable case (probable case can be determined by a physician, local/state authority, or the school district).

UNVACCINATED HOUSEHOLD MEMBER/SIBLING OF A PERSON WHO HAS TO QUARANTINE BECAUSE OF CLOSE CONTACT TO A PERSON WITH A POSITIVE CASE:

Does not need to quarantine (i.e. 1-person removed). If the Household member/sibling develops symptoms, a need exists to determine if the quarantined person is now considered a probable case.

PCR TESTING

When choosing to test your student for the COVID-19 virus, a PCR specimen test is required. The District does not accept negative rapid results due to a decrease in specificity. If a rapid test is completed per parent preference, please ask if it can be sent to the lab and processed as a PCR test.

Testing sites <http://dph.illinois.gov/testing>

RELEASE LETTERS

It is very possible that the local health departments and medical providers will be overwhelmed during these times and may not get the release letters out on a timely basis. If that occurs, it is possible that the District will allow re-entry after trying to follow up. These practical steps are to protect against students and staff being out of school simply because the system is overwhelmed.

NURSE AND/OR ADMINISTRATIVE CLINICAL JUDGMENT

The District nurse's clinical judgment and/or Administrative judgment is included in the District's protocols for COVID-19. The District includes this notice to help everyone understand that specific situations may cause the District to provide

additional restrictions, adjustments, and/or attendance restrictions for certain situations.

SCHEDULE AND LEARNING PLANS

The District will be providing In-Person Instruction/Learning on a daily basis until further notice.

- The District returns to 3:00 p.m. as the regular dismissal time.
- In-Person Learning is planned on a daily basis for all students unless notified otherwise.
- Supply Drop Off Night will be August 16th. Please note that more information regarding this event will be provided.
- Prolonged Remote Learning will only be provided for students who are medically fragile or who have immediate family/household members who are medically fragile, all of which, must be certified by a medical provider.
- For prolonged Remote Learning, the District may utilize an online 3rd party provider.
- The District will assign a device for every student (1:1)
 - Generally, K-5 students take devices home to and from school at the discretion of the teacher and 6-8 students take devices home to and from school each day.

TECHNOLOGY DEVICE AGREEMENT

The District has continually advanced the opportunities for students related to technology. This school year will be the second year in a row that the District is issuing one device for every student K-8. We are asking all families to complete this 1:1 Technology Device Agreement found [HERE](#). At the end of the agreement, an electronic signature option exists.

CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT

Last year, given the shortened schedule, our Staff prioritized curricular goals, identified essential skills, and determined differentiation opportunities for academic enrichment. Consideration will always be provided to the above; however, our Staff will be transitioning back to the approach for curriculum and assessment that more closely aligns to pre-pandemic conditions.

BEGINNING THE YEAR AND DAILY LOGISTICS

In the morning, parents that are bringing students to school will use the Main Parking Lot. Parents will pull up to the farthest open cone near the entrance at the north end of the Main Parking Lot.

- 1st-day jitters?!???!.....if you feel your child will have difficulty separating in the parking lot on the first day, please contact Mrs. McLaughlin at amclaughlin@rankin98.org. The modifications we will be able to make for the 1st day will be a late arrival at 8:20 a.m. and a parent walking their child to the Main Door. This time period will result in a limited amount of people

and will include less potential stressors. This 1st day adjustment needs to be requested and scheduled with Mrs. McLaughlin.

- Parents may drop off students no earlier than 7:40 a.m. Please remember that families can sign up for before school care. Please check [Before and After Care Link](#) or contact the Rankin Office at rankinoffice@rankin98.org.
 - Bus times will be provided to families in advance of August 18th.
 - Parents will need to confirm bus riding preferences with the District by August 9th. This is primarily confirmed through the registration process.
 - Bus monitors will not be utilized this year.
 - While on the bus, face coverings are required for all individuals (age 2 and older).
 - End of day pick up for non-bus riders:
 - K- pick up from the 1966 door (south end of the Main Parking Lot)
 - 1-2 - pick up from the 1956 door (south end of the Main Parking Lot)
 - 3-5 - pick up from the 2018 door (north end of the Main Parking Lot)
 - 6-8 - pick up from the 2004 door (Main Entrance)
- *Siblings gather and exit from the door of the youngest child.

OVERVIEW OF ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES

- All students may bring refillable water bottles. The refillable stations at the water fountains will be available. In Mitigation Level I, the water fountains will be available for traditional use. For Mitigation Levels II and III, the traditional use of the water fountains is (TBD).
- Regular lockers, P.E. lockers, and P.E uniforms will be utilized until notified otherwise.
- Morning locations for breakfast-
 - Kindergarten – 4th Grade in the Cafeteria
 - 5th Grade will be in the CLS
 - 6-8th Grade will be in the Gymnasium
- Lunch
 - The Cafeteria will be utilized for the three different lunch periods until notified otherwise.
 - Lunch times will be modified to allow for additional cleaning measures between the three different lunch groups.
- Students may be asked to wipe down surfaces to assist with ongoing cleanliness.
- Playgrounds and playground equipment will be available.

BEFORE AND AFTER CARE PROGRAMS

The Tazewell County Health Department offers a program on campus. Please click [Before and After Care Link](#) for more information. Also, you make contact Rankin Office at rankinoffice@rankin98.org or 309-346-3182 for assistance as well.

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL SUPPORTS FOR STUDENTS

The District realizes this pandemic has created various challenges and adversity for our students. In conjunction with our staff, our Social Worker will be providing a

variety of different supports (check-ins, one on one support, and group support). Beginning August 16th, all parents are encouraged to contact our Social Worker, Sarah Grako, at sgrako@rankin98.org, to make her aware of any social/emotional wellness concerns that you may have for your children.

VISITORS

Visitors will follow the guidance associated with the Mitigation Level the District is operating under.

STAFF COVID-19 RELATED ABSENCES

(TBD) The Administration and Rankin Association of Teachers will be discussing and reviewing of the possibility of allowing telework options for Staff- COVID-19 related absences. A final decision regarding this has not been made for the 2021-2022 school year.