

Rib Lake School District

Back to School Newsletter

August 17, 2020

The **Mission** of the School District of Rib Lake is to provide the highest quality education for every student in a responsive and enriching environment.

The **Vision** of the School District of Rib Lake is that every student will develop a passion for learning and graduate with skills and knowledge to achieve personal success.

CORE VALUES

We value:

- High expectations for all students as they grow socially, emotionally, and academically to become productive, responsible members of society
- A strong commitment to provide passionate, knowledgeable, collaborative, and skillful educators
- Strong community school partnerships
- Skills in communication, critical thinking, collaboration, and creativity
- Purposeful, effective, well-maintained, and safe facilities and equipment

As previously mentioned in our earlier mailings, the district has held off on sending this newsletter due to the ongoing changes occurring daily. Over the last five months, we have found recommendations and planning information from state sources to be very late in regards to the district planning process. We hope that most of the information outlined in this newsletter will be accurate when school starts on September 1, as some of the state area specific planning recommendations still have not been rolled out as previously announced. We thank you for your patience, understanding and support of the Rib Lake School District. Please feel free to contact any of us concerning any questions or concerns you may have.

Jon Dallmann
PK-5 Principal
jdallmann@riblake.k12.wi.us

Kirsten Budimlija
6-12 Principal
kbudimlija@riblake.k12.wi.us

Rick Cardey
District Administrator
rcardey@riblake.k12.wi.us

District News

Administrator Message

The School year begins for students on Tuesday, September 1. This upcoming school year will be quite different than most other school year starts. At the start of the last school year, I do not believe any of us would have had physical distancing, face coverings, choosing between on-site and virtual learning, changed bussing procedures, or questions about offering extracurriculars on our radar screen. Two years ago, the primary focus of my school opening letter was highlighting how we were changing school safety procedures to protect students and staff from school violence. This opening letter to families will focus on how the district is working to open as safely as possible due to COVID-19.

To update you on the current status of the school year, here are some of the updates:

- Administratively, we have been meeting regularly with the Taylor County Health Department, Bartelt Bus Service, School Nurse Judy LeMaster, food service, custodial, and technology staff to prepare for the changes required in the new school year. COVID-19 has certainly impacted the look and daily routines of all schools nationwide.
- Both principals have been meeting regularly on re-opening plans and identifying needs in their buildings. We will have a walk through with the Taylor County Health Department of our safety plan, procedures, and practices on Monday, August 17 to get feedback on best practices. Thank you to all of the staff who contributed to the planning process.
- One focus this school year was to create learning platforms that could adapt to changing health conditions if school needed to go virtual on a temporary basis. The district purchased iPads to send home with PK-2 students should a virtual period be needed.
- As building and grounds coordinator, I have focused on the daily operations in the COVID era. We will have plexiglass barriers for the lunch lines, bottle fillers to replace the closed fountains, collaborative furniture which also adapt to the physically distanced classrooms, and increased ventilation.
- Cleaning and sanitation will be stressed with high-use areas being cleaned multiple times a day. Electrostatic disinfecting will take place at night in classrooms and common use areas to disinfect entire classroom areas regularly.
- Hand sanitizer stations have been placed in key locations in each building. We will also have hand sanitizer bottles in each classroom and soap available in any classroom with a sink. The need for good hygiene practices will be outlined and stressed with students.

- Jon Dallmann, PK-5 principal, will be working with families who chose the virtual classroom option. The program is designed to be an extension of classroom instruction. Mr. Dallmann will be sending out information to those families in the near future.
- All schools are revamping much of their day to assist with opening school as safely as possible. These changes include moving to a block schedule to cut down on student transitions, modifying the 6-12 daily schedule using a PK-8 cohort model in which teachers travel and students stay, and adding lunch hours.
- A seventh bus route will be added to cut down on the number of students on each bus routes. Students will be in assigned seats and will only be able to share a seat with a sibling. The addition of a seventh route will eliminate the earliest bus that arrived in previous years.
- We will be using the outdoor areas on campus as an educational space much more than usual. This outdoor instruction will allow students to physically distance and not have to wear face coverings.

Over the next two weeks, you will be finding that the communication between the school and parents will be almost daily. The school start newsletter you are about to read will have information related to the start of the new school year. We have also put our fall school start planning overview presentation on the school website for your review. Starting August 18, we will be emailing daily frequently asked questions and answers to parents. This will also be put on the school website. The purpose of this is to discuss concerning areas of school operation. These short reads are designed to convey information or answer questions you may have.

We have worked hard this summer to learn as much as possible from the Center for Disease Control, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Department of Public Instruction, and other school resource groups. There is no roadmap for this type of situation, or previous planning processes to follow. The 2020-2021 school year will be a work in progress in many different ways and a learning situation for all involved. Your support, patience, and concern for our students and school district is greatly appreciated.

As always, please reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Rick Cardey
District Administrator

Virtual Learning

This year, Rib Lake School District will be providing a virtual learning option for students in grades PK-12. Our goal is to keep our virtual learning as consistent with brick and mortar curriculum as possible. This will help promote an easy re-entry into the brick and mortar schools when family and students are comfortable. To help streamline this process, the entire school district will be using Seesaw in grades PK-4 and Google Classroom in grades 5-12. Staff will be using these systems to post video instruction, classroom assignments, rubrics, and any activities that are done in the brick and mortar buildings.

Virtual learning is not going to be pass/fail, and will instead be following the school curriculum and be graded using the same scale. Student checklists and expectations will be posted for students and parents to follow to help stay up to date with the students in the brick and mortar. Students will be allowed to transfer from the virtual classroom to brick and mortar once per semester. This will provide some consistency to the students' school day for the benefit of the students and teachers alike. Staff hours will be posted, so if the student needs any help with any of the material, they will be able to contact the teacher during their posted office hours.

As a reminder, the virtual learning environment is a choice for the 2020-2021 school year. Parents will be responsible for providing the internet capabilities. The school district will be providing a device for the students to use for their schooling. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jon Dallmann, the PK-12 Virtual Learning Administrator, at 715-427-5818 or jdallmann@riblake.k12.wi.us.

Parent information regarding how to access these platforms will be sent home at the beginning of the school year.

Thank You for the Donations

The district received a \$60,000 donation from an anonymous donor to assist teachers in reaching out to students virtually. The donation includes iPads, keyboards, cameras, and apps. The district also received professional development assistance in using the equipment.

The School District of Rib Lake would like to thank everyone for their support. We received many donations with the help of community members. Recent donations have come from the Rib Lake Athletic Booster Club in the form of two middle school scoreboards, McMillan Electric for donating the labor to install the scoreboards, Ziembo Plumbing and Heating for donating labor to our metals shop upgrade, and to Rib Lake True Value for helping the district receive a True Value paint grant for our metals shop project and a personal protective equipment grant for school opening.

August Office Hours

The offices will be open starting Monday, August 17. The middle and high school offices will be open from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM daily. The elementary school office will have limited hours from 12:00 PM until 5:00 PM daily due to staff training.

Transportation

Bartelt Bus Service has added a few more Village of Rib Lake bus stops to reduce the number of students at each stop. The following locations will be utilized:

- Methodist Church
- Lakewood Credit Union
- Pebble Valley Driveway
- West Street (top of hill)
- Middle School/High School
- Zondlo's Daycare
- Rib Lake Public Library
- Corner of West and High Street
- Corner of Front and Landall Street

Students should be at the bus stop by 7:35 AM.

With assigned seating on busses this year due to COVID safety practices, your help is needed in identifying students who are attending school but will not be riding the bus. If your children rode previously but are not going to ride the bus this year, please call 715-748-2538 to assist with planning. Virtual option students do not need to call the bus company.

Communication

The new website, which will have more information and connect with our social media posts, should launch on August 24. We are excited to have this communication tool update, as it will allow parents to find more information in one spot. The school district website can be found at www.riblake.k12.wi.us.

The district is also committed to offering multiple platforms for parents and community members to find information. In addition to our website, we have several methods where information is distributed. The district also communicates via:

- Phone calls
- Texts and email via JMC
- Facebook

If you have not shared your email address with the district, we ask that you do so. With many items changing frequently, we will use JMC email to mass mail parents directly. This can be done by contacting your student's school office.

Nurse's Corner

Medications

Please remember to fill out and/or update your student's medical information and emergency contacts at the beginning of the year so we can notify you, in a timely manner, of health issues when your child(ren) are at school. This information is also reviewed by our school nurse. Students may need to receive medication during school hours related to either acute or chronic conditions in order for them to benefit from educational services. Administration of medication by school staff must follow the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction established policy/procedures:

1. Prescription medications given at school must have a signed physician order and signed parent/guardian consent form in place before they can be given at school. Non-prescription medications given at school must have a signed parent/guardian consent form in place before they can be given at school. If the non-prescription medication dose to be given is different than on the bottle, a physician's signed order is also required.
2. A new doctor's order and parent permission form for each medication must be submitted each school year.
3. Prescription medication (including asthma medication) must be in the original bottle/container with current label including the student's name, name of medication, current dose, and name of physician.
4. Non-prescription medications should also be in the original container. Medications given at school are documented by the staff administering them and are regularly reviewed by the district school nurse.

The above Medication Forms are located on the Rib Lake School District website at:

<https://www.riblake.k12.wi.us/students/s-p-forms.cfm>.

If you have any questions or health concerns regarding your student or health issues at school, please feel free to call your student's school.

COVID-19 Update [Information from the CDC]

1. What We Know About COVID-19 and Children

COVID-19 is a newly identified disease caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2. Scientists are still learning about how it spreads, how it affects children, and what role children may play in its spread. Limited data about COVID-19 in children suggest that children are less likely to get COVID-19 than adults, and when they do get COVID-19, they generally have less

serious illness than adults. Common symptoms of COVID-19 among children include fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat, headache, body ache, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea, and many children may have mild or no symptoms. Some children may be at increased risk of getting COVID-19 or may be at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19. For these children, parents and caregivers may need to take additional precautions with regard to school re-entry. People of any age, including children, with certain underlying medical conditions are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

2. What We are Doing to Reduce Risk

To reduce the spread of COVID-19 and support educational goals, Rib Lake School District is implementing these key strategies to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

1) Promoting behaviors that reduce spread

- Student and staff health check monitoring prior to coming to school
- Social distancing
- Washing hands
- Wearing masks or cloth face coverings

2) Maintaining healthy environments

- Ensuring proper ventilation
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting of the school buildings

3) Maintaining healthy operations

- Staggered schedules
- Keeping students in small groups
- Ensuring more space to socially distance

4) Preparing for when someone gets sick

- Removing child/staff from classroom and evaluating symptoms
- Calling parents to take them home and seek medical follow-up if needed

Our implementation is guided by what is feasible, practical, acceptable, and tailored to the needs of each community. We are following the guidance of the Center for Disease Control, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Department of Instruction, and the local health department.

3. What Parents Should Do

Student Health Check Monitor – complete every day before school

For **each** of your children, have they had any of the following symptoms since their last day at school that is *not related to another health condition*?

Please answer “Yes” or “No” to each question:

1) Does he/she have:

- Fever or feeling feverish? (100.4 degrees F or higher)
- Chills?
- New fatigue?
- New runny nose or congestion?
- New cough?
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing?
- New sore throat?
- New muscle or body aches?
- New headache?
- New loss of smell or taste?
- New nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea?

2) Has he/she had close contact with someone with COVID-19?

If you answered “Yes”, do not send your child to school. Keep them home and monitor their symptoms. Call your doctor if symptoms worsen.

Contact your school by 9:00 AM to tell them your child will be kept home, what illness symptoms they have, and/or if they have had close contact with someone who has COVID-19.

Elementary School: 715-427-5818 or email at afoster@riblake.k12.wi.us.

Middle School: 715-427-5446 or email at ccook@riblake.k12.wi.us.

High School: 715-427-3220

The Student Health Check Monitor Form is located on the Rib Lake School District website at:
<https://www.riblake.k12.wi.us/students/s-p-forms.cfm>.

NOTE: Do not give your child a fever reducing medication (Tylenol, etc.) before they come to school. It is very important for students to stay home when sick until at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever or signs of a fever.

Face Coverings

Due to Governor Evers' Emergency Order, every individual five years of age or older must wear a face covering if they are indoors or in an enclosed space (such as a bus), and another person or persons who are not members of their household are present in the same room or enclosed space. They do not have to wear a face covering when:

- Outside
- Eating or drinking
- Communicating with someone who is deaf or hard of hearing
- Sleeping
- Giving a media, educational, artistic, cultural, musical or theatrical presentation for an audience, so long as they have at least six feet between them and other people
- They have a medical condition that prevents them from wearing a face covering. Rib Lake School District requires you to have a Face Covering Waiver Form signed by your child's healthcare provider and yourself and turned in to the school office.
 - The Face Covering Waiver Form is located on the Rib Lake School District Website at:
<https://www.riblake.k12.wi.us/students/s-p-forms.cfm>.

Teachers and staff may not be wearing a mask during an educational presentation (making sure social distancing is observed) and if they are alone in the classroom.

The local health department recommends the following face coverings: neck gaiters, bandanas, and cloth masks. You cannot wear a face shield without also wearing a face covering.

Where to Get Face Coverings

- The school will be providing one cloth face covering to each student and staff member.
- You can make a face covering. The CDC provides both sew and no-sew instructions: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-make-cloth-face-covering.html>.
- You can buy a face covering from a store, including online stores.
- Also, many communities have programs where individuals can get a face covering for free. Check your neighborhood groups and community organizations for such programs.

Teachers and Staff

Teachers and staff are doing a COVID-19 Daily Self-Checklist every day before coming to school. If they have any symptoms related to COVID-19 that cannot be related to another health condition, they will not come to school.

Getting Sick While at School

If your child gets sick while at school, their teacher will immediately send them to the office for evaluation of their symptoms. If they have a fever of 100.4 F or higher, cough, or shortness of breath, we will move them to the Sick Room and monitor them. Parents will be called to pick them up as soon as possible and should monitor them for increasing symptoms and consult their healthcare provider. Students may return to school after having no fever or symptoms for 24 hours.

For more information on COVID-19, please visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/caring-for-children.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/talking-with-children.html>

If you have questions about COVID-19, please contact School District Nurse, Judy LeMaster, RN, BSN at 715-427-3222 ext. 3250 or email at jlemaster@riblake.k12.wi.us.

Elementary School News

First Day of School

Students should report to their assigned classrooms on the first day of school. Staff will be available for students needing assistance. To comply with health recommendations, parents will not be allowed in the building at the start of school.

Schedule

Classes will begin every day at 8:05 AM and dismissal times are as follows:

- PK-2 - 3:12 PM
- 3-5 - 3:15 PM

If you are picking up your child(ren) from school, please park by the district office and meet your child on the sidewalk at 3:12.

Meals

Breakfast and lunch will be available to students beginning on Tuesday, September 1. Breakfast will be delivered to each classroom beginning at 8:00 AM.

Four-Year-Old Kindergarten Orientation

Parents of children entering Four-Year-Old Kindergarten are invited to an orientation on Monday, August 24 in the preschool classroom at the Rib Lake Elementary School. This is an opportunity for parents and children to become familiar with their teacher, classroom, daily routine, and preschool curriculum. A child's early school experiences are critical to their success, and in working collaboratively with parents, we want to ensure a positive start for every child. If you do not already have a scheduled meeting time, please contact the elementary office at 715-427-5818 or email jscheithauer@riblake.k12.wi.us. We look forward to meeting you on the 24th!

Standards-Based Grading

Rib Lake Elementary School is moving forward with standards-based report cards. Our goal is to provide parents with more information about their child's progress and add consistency in report cards throughout the elementary. Standards-based report cards will provide more detailed information regarding a student's progress on an expanded list of skills and knowledge in each content area. With this understanding, parents and teachers can partner with the student to promote a growth mindset while working to achieve their specific learning goals. This is the next step in the process of continuing to improve our already great school. If you have any questions, feel free to call the elementary school.

Middle and High School News

Daily Schedule

ELT was taken out of the daily schedule for the time being to give students and teachers more time in classes. We will also be using a block schedule that will switch every other day in order to increase the time between students and teachers and have less traveling time between classes. School will now start at 8:00 AM and end at 3:00 PM. More information about the daily and block schedule will be in our middle and high school back to school newsletter.

Class Schedules

Middle and high school class schedules are now updated in JMC. Because of smaller class sizes, there is very little wiggle room. We appreciate your patience and cooperation. Please contact Courtney Cook (ccook@riblake.k12.wi.us) or Mrs. Rhodes (mrhodes@riblake.k12.wi.us) if there is an emergency schedule change needed.

Instruction

This year, teachers will have published lesson plans on Google Classroom with student access to the lesson's essential questions and/or learning targets, bellwork/introduction, instruction, any extending activities, and lesson closure. Teachers will be very specific with due dates, assigned dates, directions, expectations, etc. Teachers are to facilitate assistance in student planning and create checklists of assignments and activities. Band and choir will continue to take place, but will happen in smaller group sizes and in larger spaces where social distancing is feasible.

Classroom Spaces

In classrooms, students will be seated six feet apart. Desks/tables will be in rows facing one direction. The use of teachers' supplies (i.e. stapler) will be limited and when used, they will be sanitized. Additional items commonly used will be added to the MS/HS School Supply List (on the district website). Teachers will take advantage of outside learning when possible.

Common Spaces

The district is taking measures to ensure student safety in common spaces. Bathrooms and door handles will be cleaned numerous times a day. Loitering in hallways will not be allowed. Students will be dismissed from classrooms by rows closest to the door when a custodian arrives ready to clean the room. Bells will be disabled.

Students will only use lockers during certain passing periods. Lockers will be spaced apart by grade. For example, a 6th grader, 7th grader, and 8th grader will be next to one another, but use their locker at different times. Students will be allowed to carry backpacks because of limited locker use.

Middle School

Students and their belongings will stay in the same room and teachers will be moving from classroom to classroom. 6th grade will have two cohorts, 7th grade will have three cohorts, and 8th grade will have two cohorts.

High School

Classroom seating will be assigned alphabetically so students stay by similar people. Classes were made into cohorts when possible. Example: Physical Science and English 9 or Health and Biology. Students will be able to leave the room by class to stretch/walk around (need not be during a passing time).

Music

All 6th grade students will participate in a Music Explorers course with both Mr. Robisch and Mrs. Leonhard. The course will introduce students to both band and choir concepts.

Class Dues

Class dues will be \$15 per year for freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. They should be paid in the high school office. Dues are used to cover class activities, prom, and graduation expenses.

Notices

Directory Information

There are many times when the school would like to recognize students publicly for their accomplishments. This may be displayed in the school, on the school website, in school newsletters, and/or shared with the media. In releasing directory data, your passive permission is required. Directory information includes student name, address, birth date, participation in special activities, and photographs. Any parent NOT wanting this information, or parts of it, released must make such a request in writing to the principal within 14 days of the first day of school. Parents have: 1) their right to inspect, review, and obtain copies of student records; 2) their right to request the amendment of the student's school records if they believe the records are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's right to privacy; 3) their right to consent to the disclosure of the student's school records, except to the extent state and federal law authorizes disclosure without consent; and 4) their right to file a complaint with the Family Policy Compliance Office of the U.S. Department of Education.

Student Supply Lists

Updated supply lists for students entering PK-8th grade for the school year are available by contacting the elementary or middle school office or by checking the school website. The high school requires students to have pens, pencils, note paper, student organizer or notebooks, and highlighters. Other needed materials are schedule specific and will be discussed on the first day.

Textbooks/Chromebooks

Textbooks, Chromebooks, and iPads are available to students at no charge. However, if it is determined that a student damages/loses any district owned textbook or technology item during the time it was entrusted to the student, the student/student's family is responsible for the cost of damages incurred or the replacement cost of the item.

The following notices are available to the public at the specified locations:

Notice of Child Find Activity Record Confidentiality	Website
Pupil Records – Student Privacy (Military Opt Out)	Website and Handbooks
Student Bullying	Website and Handbooks
Student Non-Discrimination Notice	Student Handbooks and Website
Complaint Procedures	Student Handbooks and Website
Video Monitoring	Student Handbooks and Website
Title I Parent Involvement & Progress	Student Handbooks and Website
Programs for English Language Learners	Student Handbooks and Website
Education of Homeless Children & Youth	Newsletters and Website
Accommodating Students’ Religious Beliefs	Website
Pest Management Notification	Website
Human Growth & Development	Grade Level Letters to Parents
Asbestos Management Plan	Website
Student Attendance	Student Handbooks and Website
Student Locker Searches	Student Handbooks and Website
Youth Options	Website & Course Handbook
Use/Possession of Electronic Communication Devices	Student Handbooks and Website
Elector Registration Information	Newsletter & Poster
Meningococcal Disease Information	Website
Academic Standards	Website

Equal Educational Opportunity Pupil Nondiscrimination Provisions

The right of a student to participate fully in classroom instruction and extracurricular activities shall not be abridged or impaired because of sex, race, religion, ancestry, creed, sexual orientation, national origin, pregnancy, marital or parental status, physical, learning, mental, or emotional disability.

Notification of Asbestos

The School District of Rib Lake completed a comprehensive inspection of district buildings to determine the presence of asbestos containing material and initiatives to eliminate and control the presence of asbestos have been implemented. Some amounts of asbestos containing material remain in district buildings. MacNeil Environmental Testing conducts a surveillance of all sites and the district receives updated reports.

An asbestos management plan is on file and available for inspection in the District Office:

1236 Kennedy St.
Rib Lake, WI 54470
715-427-3222

Rib Lake School District

2020-2021 Calendar

August	19	New Teacher Staff Development (new teachers only)
	20	New Teacher Staff Development (new teachers only)
	26	No School – Staff Development
	27	No School – Record Keeping
September	1	First Day for Students
	7	No School – Labor Day
October	15	Early Student Dismissal – MS/HS – PT Conf. 1 – 6 PM Elem – ½ Staff Development
	16	No School
November	4	End of Qtr. 1
	6	Early Student Dismissal – ½ Record Keeping
	12	Early Student Dismissal – Elem – PT Conf. 1 – 6 PM MS/HS – ½ Staff Development
	25-27	No School – Thanksgiving Vacation
December	23-31	No School – Christmas Vacation
January	1	No School – New Year Vacation
	4	School Resumes
	20	End of Qtr. 2
	21	No School – Record Keeping
	22	No School – Staff Development

February	25	Early Student Dismissal – Elem/MS/HS – PT Conf. 1 – 6 PM
	26	No School – Staff Development
March	25	Early Student Dismissal – End of Qtr. 3 – ½ Record Keeping
	26	Solo Ensemble @ Rib Lake
April	2-5	No School – Easter Vacation
May	28	Early Student Dismissal – Last Day of School – ½ Record Keeping

Early Student Dismissal Times

12:15 PM – Elementary School

12:30 PM – Middle School and High School