



RINGGOLD SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

This week our team continued to navigate through the process of working to put procedures and systems in place that will allow students and families to continue to access the 'RAM Strong' education that Ringgold has delivered for many years to the families in our Community. As we continued to work through this week's challenges, questions, and concerns, I could not help but think about the many obstacles that we have already overcome because of the continued support we have received from so many. It also brought to mind the words of Henry Ford, "When everything seems to be against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it". While the 'winds of the COVID-19 challenge' have been blowing against us (and every other school in the Commonwealth), it's been the collective efforts, the support of the Community, the thought-provoking questions that bring new consideration, and the kind words of support that have helped us move the District forward.

Last week we sent out a "Frequently Asked Questions" document that provided answers to a number of questions. We have heard from many that the document was helpful to families as they consider the three options for the reopening of school. This week, we received additional questions. Based on the positive feedback from last week, we have put together a second round of Frequently Asked Questions, in a second and separate document, which can be accessed by clicking [here](#). We hope that the creation of this separate document will provide additional information that will again assist families as they identify the method by which their child(ren) will return to school.

We want to thank those families who have already responded and have specified the manner in which their child(ren) will return to school. Your responses have assisted us in our continued planning. We also want to provide ample time for those who are still in discussions about what they believe will be best for their family. To that end, we are asking that families specify their preference by the close of business on August 14th. This will allow families who are still undecided to ask additional questions in the coming week, before having to specify their choice. This will also allow us to continue in our planning and to continue to provide information.

~ Preparing students today for the challenges of tomorrow ~

We realize that the choices being offered by neighboring districts and districts across the Commonwealth vary greatly. For example, some districts have elected to do a hybrid model where students attend school in person for portions of the week and then to stay home for portions of the week. There are a number of reasons schools who are using the hybrid method have elected to do so. Some of those reasons include not having ample technology for all students to use at home, not having sufficient space to socially distance students, or as a means of reducing the number of students in schools and thereby reducing exposure. While we have not fully ruled out the use of a hybrid model in the future, we currently have space to appropriately social distance our students. In addition, we have also heard the concerns of parents who: desire to have their children in school, full time; the concerns of parents who do not wish to have their student in school at all; along with the concerns of parents who would like to have their children in school for a limited amount of time. Be assured, we have and will continue to work to provide students and families with as many options as is possible, in a manner that keeps student and staff safety at the forefront of our planning. We recognize that there is no perfect scenario but continue to commit to doing our very best to provide varied options for students and families.

In the coming weeks you will continue to receive information on bus routes, back to school events, student schedules, technology updates, athletics, and activities. In addition, you will continue to receive updates on our mitigation procedures, socially distancing procedures, and the health and safety measures that we will be using throughout the year. Despite the challenges, we look forward to seeing our students and staff, virtually and in person, for the opening of a new school year.

Thank you again for your continued support as we move the District forward.

Best Regards,

Randall Skrinjorich

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