

NOTICE TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS¹

During this period of school closings, Ringgold School District is committed to working with parents and students to meet our students' needs to the extent possible under these unique circumstances. Our administrators and staff are working to continue to provide the following services to students in the manner described below. We anticipate that as we find new ways to provide services that these things may change and if they do, we will provide an updated notice.

Special Education--Generally

To the extent that specially designed instruction and related services can reasonably be provided remotely and in accordance with the individualized educational plans of each student, they will be provided. Special Education teachers will be providing virtual instruction and holding virtual office hours to support students through the school closure. Our Special Education teachers will collaborate with our regular education teachers and hold virtual individual and virtual small group instructional sessions with students. General Education teachers will hold virtual class instruction as well as virtual individual meetings with students. Related service providers will continue to collaborate with General Education and Special Education teachers to discuss students' needs and will have the ability to be in General Education and Special Education virtual classrooms as needed. Support staff will also continue to support students, to the greatest extent possible, virtually.

Section 504 Supports

The 504 Coordinators (counselors) for each school will hold virtual office hours to support students and families. Our staff will continue to collaborate to discuss and fulfill students' needs as indicated in student 504 plans.

School Nurse Services

School nurses will be holding virtual office hours to speak with students and families about any concerns that they have.

School Counselors and Mental Health Workers

School counselors will be holding virtual office hours and will maintain contact with students on their respective caseloads. Counselors will continue to hold small group sessions and individual sessions as appropriate. Mental health workers will continue to provide services, virtually, to students.

¹ This Notice is being provided in accordance with the requirements enacted Act 13 of 2020 that was signed into law on Friday, March 27, 2020. The applicable provision in Act 13 provides:

Each school entity shall provide written notice to the parent or guardian of each student who receives services under an individualized education program under the individuals with disabilities education act (public law 91-230, 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.) (IDEA) of the school entity's plans for ensuring the student receives a free and appropriate public education as required under IDEA.

School Psychologist Services

School psychologists will continue to provide the services in IEPs through virtual sessions. School psychologists will be available for group support to assist students during this time of social distancing.

Social, Emotional, Behavioral Support Services

Behavioral specialists, school psychologists, school social workers, mental health workers, and emotional support teachers are available to provide direct (virtual) services and consultation. They are also available to consult with parents on how to implement social, emotional, and behavioral support at home during this time.

Speech/Language/ Occupational/Physical Therapy Services

Therapy services will continue to be provided to students virtually. Our providers will be in contact with parents to discuss scheduling the services. The therapists will also be collaborating with teachers as is necessary to fulfill students' needs. Therapists will continue to participate in evaluations and IEP meetings, virtually, and to the extent possible during the school closure.

Students in out-of-district placements

Ringgold School District administrators and staff are in communication with the Intermediate Unit and other out-of-district providers to determine how services will be provided to students. It is our expectation that virtual instruction and services will be provided to students. Virtual IEP meetings will continue to be held for these students.

Access to Student Records

The Ringgold School District is committed to the health and safety of all of our employees. As such, access to student records may be limited or delayed during this time of social distancing. If we are able to provide electronic copies, we will make a good faith effort to send them to you as soon as possible. If you desire access to your child's records, please contact your building Principal.

Gifted Services

Gifted Education teachers will be holding virtual office hours to support students through the school closure. Staff will continue to draft evaluations and re-evaluations to the degree possible without students present. We will be drafting GIEPs and holding GIEP meetings by phone or other virtual means. Our Gifted Education teachers will collaborate with our regular education teachers and hold virtual individual and virtual small group sessions with students. General Education teachers will provide virtual instruction and will also be available for virtual individual meetings with students during office hours.

Evaluations and IEP Team Meetings—Generally

The School District intends to comply with the procedural aspects of the IDEA in accordance with law and to complete required paperwork, such as evaluations, reevaluations, IEP's, NOREP's, etc. in accordance with applicable law

Signing and Returning IEPs, etc.

The Ringgold School District recognizes the challenges COVID-19 poses in obtaining signatures on documents. We will use multiple methods, including US Mail and email affirmation, to obtain all necessary signatures.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your child’s special education teacher, principal or the Office of Pupil Services. We invite, welcome and request your feedback, input and participation into the special education services being provided to your child.

Name	Title	Email Address	Phone
Dr. Kelly Sherbondy	Principal	ksherbondy@ringgold.org	724-258-8454
Ashli Gilbert	Assistant Principal	agilbert@ringgold.org	724-258-8454
Kristen Salamone	Director of Emotional	ksalamone@ringgold.org	724-258-9329
Dr. Cathy L. Taschner	Office of Pupil Services	ctaschner@ringgold.org	724.258.7141