

Riverbend Elementary (K-8)
301 Stewart Road, Yuba City, CA 95991
(530) 822-3100

October 29, 2020

Dear Riverbend Grade TK-5 Parents/Guardians:

As we continue to prepare for return to school in a hybrid model on November 2nd, we have been monitoring the following to ensure our district's preparedness: the health and safety guidelines, the number of students who are opting for online distance learning, staffing, and the effectiveness of our current schedules. It is hard to believe that we will soon have students in our classrooms again who have not been inside a school for over six months and transitional kindergarten and kindergarten students who have never been to school. Teachers and students will be adjusting to new procedures and protocols, while also adapting to a new model of instruction. Today we are reaching out to provide some additional information about the hybrid instructional model.

Families took a district survey several weeks ago to select having their student remain on distance learning (DL) or to transition to in-person learning. Families that did not take the survey were contacted by school staff for input. Based on the data collected, our school created a master schedule for both in-person learning and DL. As a school, we made every effort to keep students with their originally assigned teacher. However, in some cases we had to make assignment changes due to class balancing and staff health accommodations.

Grade TK-1 return for in-person learning Monday, November 2nd. Grade 2-3 students return for in-person learning Monday, November 9th. Grade 4-5 students return for in-person learning Monday, November 16. Siblings will be scheduled with one another in the same instructional block to help families (either AM or PM).

The Hybrid Model of instruction will include both in-person and online DL. The instruction for students who are participating in DL should reflect, or be very similar to, the instruction offered in the classroom. Students will meet with their teacher for 2 ½ hours Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday – whether they are meeting in-person or DL. The other 2 ½ hours, students will work on assignments at home. On Wednesday of each week, all students will meet virtually, through DL, with their Chromebooks for whole class instruction for at least one hour. They will then be given assignments for the day or participate in small group instruction. The length of a lesson is dependent on student needs.

Some new protocols for in-person learning include:

- Backpacks may be brought to school; however, they must remain outside near the classroom.

- Personal items (pencils, pencil pouches, markers, items touched by students at home) are not allowed at school at this time. All necessary items will be provided.
- Face masks: Grades TK-2 = strongly encouraged / Grades 3-5 = required.
- Drinking fountains have been turned off. We encourage students bringing water bottles pre-filled. We will have water available for students as needed.
- Chromebooks are to remain at home – so that students have access to what they need for the session of time they are working at home.
- For in-person learning the gates of the school will open at 8:15. Students may not be dropped off prior to this.
- TK-5 students are to be dropped off in the pick-up/drop-off zone. Students that walk to school can access and exit campus using the North and South gates.
- For the first two returning days of school (November 2nd and 3rd) one TK-K grade parent may walk their student to the classroom. Parents must be masked and are not to enter the classroom. After the first two days, TK-K students will be assisted by school staff to walk to class safely.
- Food Services will prepare a bag lunch, snack, and breakfast (for the next day) for each student who indicates they would like school lunch. Students will pick up their bag on the way out of class. No food will be eaten on campus.
- All in-person classes, for Riverbend School TK – 3rd grade, will be held in the AM, 8:30 – 11:00. Students will be dismissed at 11:00. All students are expected to be off campus by 11:10. Grades 4-5 in-person classes will be both during AM and PM. The PM students will be dismissed at 3:00pm. All students are expected to be off campus by 3:10.
- All DL classes, at Riverbend School TK – 3rd grade, are scheduled to be held in the PM, 12:30 – 3:00. Grades 4-5 will have both in-person and DL classes during the AM and PM.
- *Again, there is a schedule attached.*

If a student's behavior or actions indicate that he/she is sick (fever, sneezing, complains they don't feel well, coughing, etc.) they will be sent home. We know it may be allergies or a cold, but there is a possibility it could be COVID-19. This is the advice from Public Health. We cannot endanger the lives of other students and the teacher in the classroom, along with their families. Please see the attached COVID-19 Passive Screening Check.

We know there are a lot of concerns and questions. Our teachers and staff have been working hard to deliver the best instruction and services to our students, and we thank you for your continued support of their work. We will continue to build on what we have learned as we move to this next phase of our re-entry plan. Please know that we are focused on safety and that together with the support of our families and the community, we will work to ensure a successful school year for all our students.

Sincerely,

Jevan S. Bains
Principal