

Read Mountain Middle School

Return to School - Frequently Asked Questions



These questions and their responses are as up to date as possible. Please revisit this document as it will be updated as information becomes available and/or as guidelines change.

Will students have PE/Elective classes?

PE and elective classes will meet every day during in-person instruction and will be taught through both remote learning environments. *Students participating during the in-person instructional days will NOT be permitted to dress out. Students are asked to wear clothing appropriate to participate in various physical activities such as athletic shoes and school appropriate athletic apparel. Participation in PE class is a vital component of the course content.*

Student Schedules

Parents have already received a letter identifying which group their child is assigned to. Student schedules are in the mail! Parents should be receiving their child's schedule in the coming days. Important information will accompany those schedules including parent portal registration information and access codes as well as car rider information. Please make sure to read all information included with the student schedules carefully.

Keep in mind that schedule changes are permitted under very limited circumstances as outlined in the 2020-2021 BCPS Program of Studies. Students are encouraged to make schedule choices carefully. Dropping or changing a course selection may necessitate a complete schedule change. Changes in initial course selections cannot be made after July 1. No exceptions will be made unless approved by the building administration.

CHANGE FROM ONE COURSE TO ANOTHER WILL BE MADE ONLY UNDER THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES:

- a) Failure of a course which is a prerequisite for a scheduled course or a graduation requirement
- b) Human or computer error
- c) Change in a program of studies
- d) Recommendation of administration
- e) No move between course levels will be made after the first five weeks of a course

What school supplies should my student bring to school?

6th Grade:

Students should bring a pencil pouch with 2 sharpened pencils, 1 glue stick, colored pencils, scissors, and 2 pens as well as 2 - 1" binders with 1 pack of notebook paper and notebook dividers enclosed on the days in which they attend in-person. Teachers will help 6th grade students organize the binders they carry daily. On the first day they should also bring their composition notebook (to be dropped off in English class), facial tissue and index cards (to be dropped off in the student's first block class). Facial tissues and index cards can be brought to the 6th grade orientation.

All other school supplies can remain at home to use during remote instruction and to replenish what is needed by the student in the classroom during in-person instructional days. Teachers will request that other remaining items be brought into school as needed in the classroom.

7th Grade:

Students should bring a pencil pouch with 4 sharpened pencils, 2 glue sticks, colored pencils, a highlighter, scissors, and 1 large eraser as well as 1 - 2" binder and 1 - 1" binder with notebook paper and notebook dividers enclosed in each on the days in which they attend in-person. Algebra students should bring graph paper in the 2" binder. Facial tissues can be brought in on the first day of school and collected by the first block teacher).

All other school supplies can remain at home to use during remote instruction and to replenish what is needed by the student in the classroom during in-person instructional days. Teachers will request that other remaining items be

brought into school as needed in the classroom.

8th Grade:

Students should bring a pencil pouch with 4 sharpened pencils, 2 pens, a highlighter, scissors, 2 glue sticks and colored pencils, 2 - three subject spiral notebooks, as well as 2 - 2" binders with notebook paper and notebook dividers enclosed in each on the days in which they attend in person. Facial tissues can be brought in on the first day of school and collected by the first block teacher).

All other school supplies can remain at home to use during remote instruction and to replenish what is needed by the student in the classroom during in-person instructional days. Teachers will request that other remaining items be brought into school as needed in the classroom.

*All of these items have come from the [2020-2021 RMMS School Supply List linked.](#)

My child is riding a bus to/from school, where do I find bus stop and route information?

Go to this link and follow the step-by-step instructions to access your child's bus route information.
https://www.bcps.k12.va.us/parents/resources/bus_information_18-19

Will my child receive a device?

BCPS is in the process of procuring devices for all middle school students. We anticipate delivery of these devices in late September/early October. 6th and 7th grade students will be issued devices as soon as possible after their arrival. 8th grade students will be issued devices as soon as possible from the current school inventory. A Technology Fee of \$25 will be collected from each student during the first weeks of school prior to the distribution of devices. Checks can be made payable to Read Mountain Middle School.

What Learning Management System should my student be prepared to use this school year for remote learning?

BCPS will be utilizing Canvas and Google Classroom during the 2020-2021 school year. Please watch [this video](#) for a brief introduction of these systems.

Have students been divided into two groups alphabetically?

Several factors went into the division of students to create an A and B schedule. RMMS utilized the data parents provided in a survey completed by parents and worked with the high school as well as our feeder elementary schools to ensure that siblings were on the same schedule. From there, adjustments were made to schedules to balance class sizes. Therefore the division of students into an A and B schedule was not based solely on an alphabetical split..

What will remote learning look like for a student that is on an A/B schedule?

Teachers will provide students with learning activities to work on for days they are not in the building. For students that do not have online access, paper copies will be provided. This model will extend learning while students are at home. This approach will look far different than during the school closure this past March. For students that do have online access, teachers will have office hours for students to check-in when they are not in the building.

How accessible will teachers be on remote learning days for questions/assistance?

Teachers will schedule office hours on Wednesdays which are designated as a remote learning day for all students. Teachers will be accessible through email at any time, though responses may not be immediate.

Will students change classes during the days in which they receive in-person instruction?

Students will change classes on a daily basis. Class changes will be designed in a way to minimize different grade levels passing one another in the hallway. Students will also have specific directions he/she will move depending on the grade level. Students will not be assigned lockers but instead will carry their things with them in a bookbag or binder. A video demonstrating what class change will look like will be shared with all families prior to the first day of school.

What will it look like in the hallway during class change? Have changes been made to minimize close proximity?

Class changes will be very deliberate and staggered by location in the building and grade level to minimize students from one grade level passing another grade level in the hallway. Students will wear face coverings and be asked to attempt to maintain six feet of physical distance in the hallway. RMMS faculty and staff will monitor the hallways during class changes. RMMS will share a video with students/parents prior to the first day of school to demonstrate what class change will look like.

We have unreliable internet access or no internet. How will this work?

BCPS is currently working to roll out a learning platform this year that will not require students to have access to a reliable and consistent internet connection. Students will have the ability to work offline and submit work or download their work when they are able to access the internet. There are also several community partners that are working to provide free internet access to families at their facilities. The names of the facilities will be shared with families once they are made available.

How effective will remote learning be especially in homes without reliable and consistent high-speed internet? Are the schools or county doing anything to ensure students have the internet in their homes?

The school division is working on a plan to utilize a digital platform that will allow students to use devices without requiring reliable and consistent access to the internet. We anticipate that all middle school students will have devices issued to them sometime in late September or early October. As stated in a previous question, community partners and the schools will have their Wifi open so that families may access online capabilities when on site at these various locations throughout the county. The division has no plan at this time to provide internet access to individual students.

What grading system will be used? Pass/Fail or A-F?

Students will be graded A-F as new instruction will be taking place this school year.

Is there a plan to proceed with 100% remote learning for all students should another school closure happen?

The division is working on a plan if school closure takes place again. This model will look far different than it did this past school year with the sudden school closure in March.

Will Physical Education, Band, and Chorus classes change significantly due to new health guidelines?

These classes will take place every day for all students enrolled in these courses. Physical distancing of 10 feet will be maintained and learning activities will reflect an adherence to the health guidelines provided by the Virginia Department of Health, the Virginia Department of Education, and the Center for Disease Control. Curricular standards will still be taught within these health guidelines.

When my child arrives at school in the morning where will they go?

Students will have their temperature quickly screened by a faculty or staff member prior to entering the building. 6th and 8th grade students that have a band instrument will drop those instruments off at a designated spot in the arrival area. After 6th and 8th grade students drop their band instruments off in the designated area they will then enter their grade level's doors and report directly to their first block class where they will remain until the school day begins. 7th grade students with a band instrument will take their instrument directly to band class as it is scheduled during the 1A block. They may enter the building with their instruments using the doors designated for their grade level.

Where will students eat lunch?

The current plan is to have students eat lunch in their classrooms. The cafeteria is set up with desks instead of tables for classrooms that cannot host an in-class meal service. These desks are 6 feet apart.

Will breakfast be served and where will students eat breakfast?

RMMS will provide breakfast in the cafeteria for students arriving between 8:00am and 8:20am. And utilize the "breakfast to go" program for students arriving between 8:20am and 8:40am. Students will pick up their breakfast on the way in to class and eat in their first-period classroom.

Will students be required to wear face coverings?

The plan approved by the Botetourt County School Board states that face coverings will be required of students on the bus. Once students enter the school building, students will not be required to wear face coverings unless six feet of social distancing cannot be maintained. Students will be asked to wear face coverings during class exchange and when purchasing lunch or food items in the cafeteria.

Will teachers and staff be required to wear a face covering?

If teachers and staff members cannot maintain six feet physical distance, they will be wearing a face covering.

What plan is in place if there is a COVID positive test or case involving a student or staff member?

The school division will seek guidance from the VDH and local health officials on how to proceed.

Will lockers be assigned to students?

Lockers will not be assigned to begin the school year. Students will be allowed to use a backpack or bag to take their belongings from class to class. Once students are able to return to classes on a normal schedule, lockers will be assigned.

Will field trips that were typically taken be scheduled this year?

RMMS administration will consider the vitality of each field trip request as they are made keeping the health and safety of students and staff the top priority in those considerations.

Will the students from A and B days have any opportunities to interact with one another?

There may be an opportunity for this to occur through online meetings with their teacher. At this time, there is no formal plan for this to take place in the school building.

Will students be using computers during in-person instructional days? Is so, what precautions will be taken to keep these sanitized?

RMMS is currently working on a plan where Chromebooks will be available for student use. Computers used by one student during a class will be sanitized by staff for use prior to its use by another student. We anticipate the division providing Chromebooks to the middle schools in late September or early October for distribution to each student. After those devices are assigned to students, all students will be expected to have that Chromebook at school on days they are attending school in-person. There will be a Technology Fee of \$25 associated with this device distribution per school board policy.

Will students be using library books? Is so, what precautions will be taken to keep these sanitized?

Yes, Mrs. Myers is currently working on a system for students to check books out virtually for pick up during their in-person instructional day. We anticipate students accessing instruction 100% remotely will be provided the opportunity to check out e-books or arrange to pick up a library book at the school. When a library book is returned it will be properly sanitized prior to returning to circulation.

When will restrooms be available for student use?

Students will only access the restroom during class in order to maintain physical distancing in the restrooms and hallways during class transition. Only one student at a time will be allowed to be in the restroom. Teachers will work with students on proper restroom procedures when school begins.

Will students have access to water fountains?

In order to lower transmission risk, water fountains will not be available. However, water bottle filling stations will be available for student use throughout the day. Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle from home and keep it with them throughout the day for their personal use.

Will students have access to the school nurse?

Students who are not feeling well will have access to the school's clinic. However, the procedures for accessing the school clinic have changed to reduce transmission risk. Many minor health needs will be addressed in the classroom either by the teacher or the school nurse. Students receiving medications from the school nurse throughout the day will access the clinic in a different location. Those students will be contacted by the nurse directly to discuss the location change.

Will students still be able to meet with School Counselors?

Students will still have access to a School Counselor. In cases where a 6 foot physical distance cannot be maintained in this interaction, face coverings will be required.

Can a student ride the bus home with a friend?

Students will only be allowed to ride the bus assigned to them by the BCPS Transportation Department. Students will not be able to ride the bus home with other students at this time.

Will the attendance policy stay the same?

At this time, the attendance policy will remain unchanged. Students will be counted absent on days they are supposed to be in the building but are not in school.

How will classrooms be cleaned on a daily and nightly basis?

The RMMS Custodial Staff will follow proper division protocols to ensure that classrooms are sanitized properly on a nightly basis. Student work stations will be wiped down in between each class by RMMS Staff and high touch areas will be wiped down frequently throughout each school day.

What role will the PTA play as school reopens?

The RMMS PTA is a vital part of the school community. The PTA Board will still be able to meet to conduct business. General PTA meetings may or may not be held based on guidance from the CDC and the VDH on how many folks may meet in a group and what the social distancing requirements may be.

Visitors

Visiting the school will be restricted this school year to those with appointments only. Meetings and conferences will be conducted virtually if at all possible. All visitors will be required to complete a BCPS COVID-19 Health Screening Form prior to entering the building. Parents will be permitted to drop off items forgotten at home and needed during the school day.

Checking Out and Checking In a Student

Checking Out :When students need to be checked out of school the parent or their designee (designees need to be identified in writing to the school by the parent prior to the time of student pick up) will be permitted to enter the building. The school does require photo identification to be shown to our front office staff before the student will be called to the office for dismissal. Please note that face coverings are required while inside the building. Once the front office staff verifies the identity of the parent or their designee and they have signed the student out we kindly ask for them to wait for the child in their vehicle. Once the child arrives in the front office, the front office staff will direct them to the vehicle in which their parent is waiting.

Checking In: Students arriving to school after the school day begins at 8:40am will need to be checked in at the front office. Parents can drop those students off at the main entrance and students will report to the office to sign in. Notes from the parent, medical offices, etc. will be collected from the student at the time of sign in. Please note students must wear a face covering when they enter the building. All students checking in will complete a brief temperature screening prior to being sent to class.

6th Grade Orientation

We are working on an in-person orientation event for our new 6th graders! More information will be sent to parents and students as soon as possible concerning this event.