Dear CRCS Students and Parents,

We are excited to announce that Cedar Riverside Community School is making the plans to welcome all PreK-8 students back for in-person learning in March! Our administration and staff are working hard to put a comprehensive in-person learning plan in place that ensures the highest amount of safety. Information about this plan is detailed in the following pages. This decision to return to in-person learning was made very carefully and thoughtfully in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Education, Minnesota Department of Health, Hennepin County, and the City of Minneapolis. We appreciate their assistance and support in providing us with the most up to date information available specific to the Cedar Riverside Community and more specifically Riverside Plaza. As we have all learned with COVID-19 the situation may change quickly and so it is always possible that dates will change or there may be a shift back to distance learning at any time. Our students’ learning and safety are our number one priority and we’ll need your help. Most importantly….we can’t wait to see you in-person!!!

Sincerely,

Mr. Strassburg
Executive Director

| √ | Students in PreK and Grades 1 -8 will begin in-person learning on Monday, March 15th. Kindergarten students will have scheduled in-person ACCESS testing slots the week of March 15th when they will need to come to school with a parent/guardian at the scheduled time. Then kindergarten students will all begin together on Monday, March 22nd. |
| √ | The in-person school day will have a differentiated start time to ensure social distancing. Grades PreK -6 students will arrive at 7:30 AM and grades 7-8 students will arrive at 7:40 AM. From 1:00 – 2:30 PM students will be participating in distance learning. This may include time with a specialist (Physical Education or Science) or with another staff member to provide additional support. |
| √ | Students will be provided breakfast upon arrival and a snack in the middle of the morning. Bagged lunches will be given to students as they leave the school through a staggered dismissal from 12:15-12:30 PM. Students will eat at home. All food served will be individually wrapped to ensure the highest degree of safety. |
| √ | There will not be school the week of March 8th. These 5 days teachers and school staff will be preparing for the safe return of students to our classrooms. However, there will be welcome back conferences scheduled that week so that parents and students can meet with their teacher, see the safety procedures and protocols in place, and ask any questions. |
| √ | The school will be following the very specific safety policies, procedures, and requirements as outlined by the CDC (Center for Disease Control), the Minnesota Department of Education, and the Minnesota Department of Health. |
| √ | Students will be required to enter and exit specific doors based upon grade/teacher. Additional safety precautions and sanitation/cleaning procedures will be put into place in every classroom and across the school. |
| √ | Students will have minimal transitions throughout the day and there will be scheduled bathroom breaks for each class. Restrooms will be disinfected in between classes. |
| √ | All students and staff are required to wear facemasks while on school grounds. Staff will also be required to wear a face shield to add an extra layer of protection. Students need to wear their own facemask to and from school but will be provided with a clean disposable facemask every day for in-school use. Students can choose to wear the disposable mask with their own facemask or just the disposable mask. |
| √ | A majority of the CRCS staff will have the COVID-19 vaccine upon the return of students to the school building. In addition, staff will receive a COVID-19 test every two weeks to minimize non-symptomatic transmission. |
| √ | We love having our parents and families come into the school building, but unfortunately we will need to limit visitors at this time. Parents will drop their student off at the assigned building entrance door but will not be able to enter the building. A limited number of individuals will be allowed in the Main Office at any one time. Calling to make an appointment will ensure you don’t have to wait outside in the cold! We know this is frustrating, but we appreciate your support. |

### Why the shift now to in-person learning?

For the past several weeks CRCS administration has met with representatives from the Minnesota Department of Education, Minnesota Department of Health, Hennepin County, and the City of Minneapolis to access the current circumstances specific to our school. All representatives felt very comfortable with CRCS students returning to in-person learning in March. Here is the rationale:

- While Riverside Plaza is one of the most densely populated communities in Minneapolis the community level transmission rate has been fairly low in recent months.
- The overall infection rate in the City of Minneapolis continues to steadily decrease even with the re-opening of restaurants, entertainments venues and some schools.
- Minneapolis Public Schools and many neighboring schools and districts have returned to hybrid or in-person learning.
- Governor Walz and the Minnesota Department of Education are pushing for a return to in-person learning as soon as possible (as long as safety procedures are in place).
• The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has issued very specific guidelines that have proven to be successful in decreasing the spread of COVID-19 and creating safe learning spaces for students.
• The HVAC system has been updated and inspected to ensure student and staff safety in regard to air-borne disease transmission.

Please note that at any point in time (and with very little notice) a shift could be made to return to distance learning for some or all classes. We realize this is not convenient, but there are also very specific guidelines that we must follow if a staff member or student within a classroom tests positive for COVID-19.

Let’s Get Started!

Welcome Back Conferences
Welcome back conferences will be scheduled for the week of March 8th. Parents and students will come together to meet with teachers and staff at a scheduled time. This will allow us to answer any questions and for you to see the safety protocols in place throughout the school and in the classrooms.

Technology Needs
CRCS students will need to bring their technology devices back and forth between school and home every day.

School Supplies
Students will need very limited school supplies and some will be provided by the school.

Attendance/Absences
Daily attendance is expected for all students. Student attendance will be taken every day and the office must receive a phone call if your child will not be attending school on any specific day. More information will be coming from the school about when you need to keep your child(ren) home if they are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.

Questions
If at any point in time you have ANY questions regarding the in-person learning plan or COVID-19, please contact the school’s COVID-19 Site Coordinators for help. Here is their contact information:

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