

# RSMS School-wide Reopening Plan 2020-21 School Year

## Part One: Background:

As COVID-19 cases began to rise in the late winter and early Spring of 2020, RSMS along with all other schools in the county transitioned to a distanced-based learning program with our students. An Emergency Board Meeting was held and RSMS closed its site to learning for the school year on March 14th, 2020.

Immediately following on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, there was an all-staff meeting regarding the scope of distance learning. Daily online interaction was established with all students and parents who needed assistance with technology access via chrome books was initiated.

This daily interaction was successful in that students continued to learn new concepts, attend multiple daily and weekly live interactions with teachers and maintained their learning to the best of their abilities. A new Individualized Education Plan was also formulated for each student who receives special education to accommodate the services received by students at school and create new services from the “home” setting.

## Part Two: 2020-21 School Year – Site-based Plan

### **Introduction:**

Rising Sun recognizes that the most effective learning occurs in a safe school environment where interaction with materials, peers and adults all serve to further the educational goals of parents and teachers. Rising Sun also understands the health risks associated with COVID-19 for some members of the population who have co-morbid, underlying health conditions. These conditions could exist with students, family members of students and staff and we also recognize and respect the need for some families to continue to isolate. As such, after receiving significant parent input, Rising Sun Montessori has initiated a “dual program” offering for the fall of 2020. This Dual Program will offer parents the choice to return their children to school site-based learning or to elect a distance learning program similar to the one implemented at the end of the 2019-20 school year.

### **Survey:**

A survey was sent out soon after Governor Newsom’s announcement that schools who resided in certain counties (those not on the “watch list”) could re-open their doors with certain adjustments and procedures which would be strictly adhered to. Parents of Rising Sun received a survey asking them which program they would like to select for their students and opportunity for input and questions which have all been identified and addressed. Parents were provided three options for a response:

1. Distance Learning for the entire year with attendance being mandatory and assignments being provided online for return either online through Google Classroom or printed and returned to the school in packets.
2. Distance learning for the first trimester with the option to join the school site-based instruction at the beginning of the second trimester in November.

3. Site-based learning five days per week, with reduced hours as outlined in Assembly Bill 77, passed in 2020. It reads as follows:  
“43501. For the 2020–21 school year, the minimum school day for a local educational agency is as follows:  
(a) 180 instructional minutes in kindergarten.  
(b) 230 instructional minutes in grades 1 to 3, inclusive.  
(c) 240 instructional minutes in grades 4 to 12, inclusive.”

### **Survey Results:**

Based on the results of the survey, RSMS will open with approximately 10-15 students per classroom, and the remaining students receiving distance based learning and daily interaction throughout the day. Each teacher will provide daily opportunities for “lessons” to our distance learning students which are aligned with the site-based learning occurring on campus. This will allow for continuity for those students who are electing distance-based learning and also allow for daily interaction with teachers, while allowing for maximum social distancing for students who are present on campus.

### **Site-based learning Plan:**

RSMS will open under the strict adherence to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Industry Guidance for Schools and School-Based Programs, released July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

In addition RSMS Leadership has been in frequent, ongoing contact with the El Dorado County Department of Public Health (EDCDPH) for additional, local guidelines since March of this year. The details of this plan can be found at [CDPH Guidance](#).

### **Specific Areas Addressed:**

Based on CDPH Guidance linked above, and in conjunction with the EDCDPH, RSMS will focus on the following five key areas to ensure a safe site-based instruction

1. Social Distancing
  - a. Maximum allowable space between students and peers and teachers at all times
  - b. No outside adult visitors to the classroom
  - c. Staggered Start and Pickup Times to avoid crowds of students or parents forming at one location
  - d. Staggered Lunch/Recess times as applicable
  - e. Multiple Ingress/Egress access points per Building
  - f. Limited Extended Day enrollment
  - g. Drinking fountains will be unavailable for student use. Students are encouraged to bring a reusable water bottle with them each day for proper hydration
2. Use of Personal Protective Equipment
  - a. Masks or face shields are required for all staff members
  - b. Masks or face shields for students in grades 3 and over are mandatory
  - c. Masks or face shields strongly encouraged for grades K-2, but not mandatory
  - d. Training for teachers and students on proper use of masks, cleaning and disposal of masks

- e. Students are expected to provide their own, reusable mask to be taken home and washed at regular intervals by parents. Students not arriving at school with a mask will be issued a disposable mask. Repeated need for provision of a mask for a student will result in that parent being billed at our cost (currently \$2 per mask).
3. Health Checks
- a. Temperature checks for all students and staff prior to entering building before school and after recess
  - b. Immediate separation and contact with home or health care provider for fevers or other symptoms
  - c. Use of n-95 masks for those who become ill at school for use while being isolated and prior to being picked up and taken home
  - d. All staff will undergo Covid-19 testing. 25% of our staff will be tested every two weeks, with the goal of all staff members being tested in a two month period. This testing will be continuous throughout the school year during site-based learning.
  - e. A contact tracing program is currently under study at the state level.
4. Enhanced Hygiene
- a. Air Conditioning systems adjusted for maximum external airflow through building
  - b. Incorporation of outdoor spaces as much as practicable
  - c. Training for all staff and students on proper handwashing
  - d. Use of soap and water or hand sanitizer both prior to and after using Montessori materials
  - e. Use of soap and water or hand sanitizer both prior to and after eating lunch or snack
  - f. Training for proper cleaning of classroom prior to students re-entering after recess or at the beginning of a school day
  - g. Use of EPA certified disinfectants approved for school use and proven to kill SARS/COV2 (otherwise known as Coronavirus).
  - h. Restroom disinfected regularly, as well as all door handles, water faucets, tables and other frequently touched items.
5. Temporary School Closure and Re-opening connected to Governor's "County Watch List"
- a. Rising Sun will be closed for site-based learning when it is placed on the Governor's "Watch List", and remains there for three days. This can be referenced here: ["Watch List Link"](#)
  - b. The school closure could be for 14 days, and the school would then only reopen when El Dorado County clears us to re-open.
  - c. Our County Health Director has mentioned that they will seek exemptions for students in Kindergarten and elementary grades so those programs would be able to stay open due to the low infection and illness rates among those in that age group.
  - d. Our County Health Director has also not ruled out allowing some parts of the county to remain open, since at this point the majority of the new cases in El Dorado County are in the Lake Tahoe region.
6. Temporary Cohort Closure for a positive test of Covid-19

- a. If a classroom records a positive test of Covid-19, all parents will be notified and the classroom will be closed for two weeks for isolation of staff and students. Distance learning will continue until the two week isolation period is over and all students and staff who are not displaying symptoms will be allowed to return to normal site-based instruction.
7. Temporary School Closure due to multiple cohorts or 5% of site based student population testing positive for Covid-19
  - a. If multiple classrooms in one building or 5% of our student population tests positive, RSMS will close its entire campus for a 14 day period, with all classes initiating distance learning.
8. If the immediate family member of a student tests positive we require that student to quarantine at home and initiate distance learning for a period of 14 days. Please communicate this to the school so we can make the correct adjustments in our attendance policy.

### **School Schedule**

#### Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten

1. Entrance to school for TK/K students will be through their exterior classroom doors, being temperature checked as they walk in. Students are asked to leave approximately two-arms-length between them as they wait.
2. Start Time: 8:45 am, drop off as early as 8:31 am.
3. Parents may not wait with their students on school property. Sunflower class can drop off on Hillsdale Circle, and Leo class may drop off at the playground or drive through.
4. Pick up time is 12:30 pm. Students will have had both lunch and recess prior to pick up.
5. Pick up location is Hillsdale Circle for Sunflower and the front drive through for Leo class. Students will be released to parents when eye contact is made.

#### Lower Elementary, Grades 1-3

1. Entrance to school will be on the West end of the 4940 building, on either side, depending on your teacher's classroom. Seashell class will line up outside the southwest door, Andromeda will line up outside the northwest door.
2. Start time: 8:30 am, drop off as early as 8:16.
3. Parents are not permitted to congregate on the school site. Parents are encouraged to drop off either in the 4958 parking lot or on Hillsdale Circle.
4. Pick up time is 1:15 pm. Students will have had both lunch and recess prior to pick up.
5. Pickup location is same as drop off. Students will be released when eye contact is made.

#### Upper Elementary and Middle School

1. Entrance to campus is through the main gate by the 4958 parking lot. School entrance will be on West end of 4940 building, with Phoenix class on the southwest corner and Taurus on the northwest corner.
2. Start time: 8:30 am, drop off as early as 8:16.
3. Parents are not permitted to congregate on the school site. Parents are encouraged to drop off in the 4958 parking lot.

4. Pick up time is 1:30 pm. Students will have had both lunch and recess prior to pick up.
5. Pickup location is same as drop off. Students will be released to meet their parent independently unless parent specifies that they want supervised pickup.

### **Extended Day**

1. After School Extended Day will offered in limited numbers at their new location in the 4958 building, and will follow our site-specific plan outlined above in this document. RSMS is in contact with Extended Day and information regarding how many spaces and staff will be provided for our site, with details forthcoming in the next few days or weeks.
2. Morning extended day will also be in the 4958 building, and will start at 7:30am, with drop off and pickup occurring via the 4958 parking lot. Morning extended day will be staffed by RSMS employees and will also follow the above referenced plan with the same entry, exit and safety protocols as our normal school day.

## **Part Three – The Distance Learning Plan**

### **Classroom Connection, Socialization and Accountability**

Rising Sun recognizes that we have an obligation to do the very best we can to maintain student learning outside of the regular classroom environment. This includes opportunities for students to be present and participate in lessons as well as some degree of social interaction with their fellow students. To this end RSMS staff has initiated the following:

1. All distance learning students will have real-time interaction based on each individual teacher's lesson schedule for that student as it is being taught to the other students. The students will connect via Zoom and each classroom will have live lesson sessions which incorporate lesson introduction, modeling and follow-up work. Follow up work will be available online through Google Classroom. These lessons will take at various times throughout the school day and are not recorded, thus is it critical that each student communicate with their teacher to ensure they have appropriate access to each lesson in each classroom.
2. Each student will also be given the opportunity to attend "tutoring sessions" live with their teachers after school hours. These lessons will take part in the early part of the afternoon as scheduled by each individual teacher. Assignment progress tracking will be part of these daily afternoon interactions.
3. Work completion can be demonstrated through electronic document transfers on Google Classroom or through packet pickup and return. Packets will be available at the beginning of each week as communicated by the teacher.
4. We will encourage site-based students to connect (especially in the older grades) with their distance learning "buddies". This "buddy system" will allow for students to continue to work with their peers to the greatest extent possible. Further details will be available from each classroom teacher following Teacher Orientation this August.
5. Daily attendance is required, as is timely assessment and assignment completion verification. Student grades will be determined by these participation, attendance and assignment completion matrices.