

CIP School Reopening Family Email 8-23-2020

Dear Captain Isaac Paine Elementary School Families,

I am writing with an update of our preparations for the 2020-2021 school year. Throughout the summer our team has been developing plans, protocols, and other tools to support the reopening of schools. Similarly, the RI Department of Health and RI Department of Education have been periodically sharing information and newly developed guidance with school districts. As the state releases new information we update our plans and protocols accordingly and share the information we have available at the time with our families. We thank you for your flexibility as we modify our school reopening plans based on evolving guidance from the state.

In order to personalize our school reopening plans to the needs of individual families we offered our families the option to return to school in 2020-21 with instruction provided in-person, in a hybrid manner, or virtually. The following table represents the choices made by our families as of Friday, August 21st.

Table 1 School Reopening Choices

Grade	In-Person	Hybrid	Virtual Option 1 i-Ready	Virtual Option 2 ZOOM CIP Curriculum	Unknown / Homeschool / Moving
PreK	3	0	1	3	1
K	13	10	3	4	4
1	15	6	7	4	11
2	9	8	9	2	4
3	6	10	5	6	6
4	6	10	7	7	7
5	12	16	4	3	4

Student Assignments

The week of August 31st we will release the assignment of students to in-person, hybrid group A, hybrid group B, virtual learning options, and transportation options. If we made an error, or if you have changed your mind as to which option would best meet the learning needs of your child and family, please contact us by August 31st. To do so, please submit a ***Request to Change Registration for Learning and Transportation Form***. You can find the form on the district website or you can use the link below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfxbgKdSfrecWMPEiPTEmnFcqjWswHrdH-uJZApEeUgb_M6WQ/viewform

If you have not yet registered, you can use the link provided above. For your advance planning, we plan to release individual student class schedules the week of September 7th.

Second School Reopening Family Forum Recorded and Posted

On Wednesday, August 19th we held Family Forum on ZOOM that was attended by more than 90 families. During this forum we provided additional details on our school reopening plan – informed by the decision of the state and the registrations submitted by our families for full in-person, hybrid, or virtual learning. We also addressed questions that our families submitted prior to the forum and asked during the forum. We recorded the Family Forum and it will be posted on the district website. You can access it directly using the link below.

<https://fgschools.zoom.us/rec/share/3pZtc7jcq05lfpXG0FqYA5YuJ6Lceaa8hnUe-fALxByLD-1-jdr8AV9E-tzWh4SA>

The password to access the video is: x\$uT=i9q

Our School Will Look and Feel Different

Part of what makes Captain Isaac Paine special is the relationships among students and staff. These relationships are formed in the classroom, in the hallways, in the cafeteria, and on the playground and they have made CIP a family. Due to the protocols designed to mitigate the COVID risk to students and staff - such as social distancing - our students and staff will not be able to interact as they have in the past whether learning is in-person, hybrid, or virtual. Our classrooms and our schools have been set up to align with social distancing guidelines. Moreover, students will not be able to gather in close contact with each other in classes, the cafeteria, and other locations. Despite these changes our teachers and staff will continue to build relationships between and among students and staff to and ensure our students grow and develop academically and personally-socially. **Attached to this email are two pictures that graphically illustrate this change in our learning environment.**

Distribution of Chromebooks and iPads

Distribution of Chromebooks and iPads will occur on September 9th, 10th, and 11th. More information on the specific times and process will be shared in a separate email prior to September 7th.

The Rhode Island Department of Health “Playbook”

Over the past couple of months, the Department of Health worked to produce a “Playbook” for districts which was released on August 7, 2020. This playbook provides Outbreak Response Protocols for PreK-12 Schools on how to respond if a child or staff member exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID-19. The playbook does not replace direct engagement with RIDOH, but rather gives an overview of what will occur throughout that engagement process. The information shared in this document assumes that Pre K-12 and parents/guardians are complying with current RIDOH guidelines and CDC guidance. We will work with our school nurses to ensure our practices are consistent with the RIDOH Playbook. The RIDOH Playbook may be accessed using the following link:

[RI Department of Health Playbook – August 7, 2020](#)

RI Department of Education Frequently Asked Questions

The state periodically updates the guidance provided to districts. When this occurs we update the plans and protocols that we have developed. For example, previous guidance from the state stated that masks were not required if students were in stable groups and maintaining 6’ of social distance. The current guidance from the state changed the guidance to require all students (and adults) to wear masks while in school even if they are maintaining 6’ of social distance. On August 14, 2020 the RI Department of Education released another version of Frequently Asked Questions. The updated FAQs may be accessed using the following link:

[RI Department of Education Frequently Asked Questions – August 14, 2020](#)

Air Circulation

The topic of air circulation in classrooms has been a topic of discussion in the media and a number of families have inquired about air circulation in our classrooms. The Heating and Ventilation and Air Conditioning Systems (HVAC) at Captain Isaac Paine school are approximately 3 years old and were designed to circulate air in accordance with state regulations. Air circulation in our classrooms is provided by Unit Ventilators (UVs) and Energy Recovery Ventilators (ERVs) to refresh the atmosphere in our classrooms several times an hour. For optimal performance our facilities department utilizes the highest rated filters outlined in the manufacturers’ specifications. The state is currently working on air quality guidance for school districts, which is expected to be released in the next week or so. When this guidance is released we will review our current systems to determine how our facilities align with this guidance and make adjustments as necessary.

Closing Thoughts

Over the next week we will continue to prepare our facilities for the return of students and staff and finalize the assignment of students to classes. We will also be working with our teacher leaders to finalize our professional development plans to support our dedicated teachers and

staff with enhanced safety protocols and technology-based instructional practices. Teachers will officially return to school on August 27th and engage in five (days) of professional learning and collaboration prior to the arrival of students on September 14th. Thank you for all your support and we will continue to update you as the start of school approaches.

The week of August 31st the Governor will be reviewing the data and metrics available at the time and making a decision as to the start of school on September 14th. Regardless of her final decision we are looking forward to seeing everyone (in-person or virtually) and starting the 2020-21 school year.

Sincerely,

Michael Barnes and Marcella Clark



Kindergarten



Fourth Grade