



FLORIDA RUFFIN RIDLEY SCHOOL
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Work Hard, Be Kind, Help Others

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Hello Grades 1-5 Families and Friends,

This is certainly an exceptional start to our first year as the Florida Ruffin Ridley School. The pandemic has tested our flexibility, resiliency, resolve and highlighted the importance of working together from a place of empathy, compassion, and kindness. Our community has endured turmoil and upheaval as we have been working to adapt to our current ways of operating during this time. We are committed to working alongside each of you in supporting your child(ren) through this year and improving our approaches and practices from the Spring. There is no doubt that we will continue to face many challenges as the year progresses, and it will only be by working together as a team that we will be able to meet each of those challenges and move through them successfully.

Below and attached to this email are some important pieces of information to help you and your child(ren) get prepared for the start of school next week. Please take the time to carefully read this letter and the attached health and safety guidelines.

Class Placement

Today you have received notification of your class placement. Attached to the email you will find a welcome letter from your child(ren)'s classroom teacher. I thank you all for the patience and grace you have shown us as we have been navigating through unexpected and abrupt changes to our staff and shifting protocols and procedures that impacted our placements and scheduling. Because of the many factors we needed to balance for class placement this year, all class placements are now finalized and we will not be able to honor requests to reconsider placement decisions.

Starting the Year Remotely

Starting the year off in a remote setting is new for all of us. We will miss all of the first day of school smiles and pictures that happen each year on our front steps in the chill of the autumn morning air. We are hopeful that you will still share your photos and smiles with us using #HiveApart on Twitter. We will be sharing our first day of school photos and other updates throughout the year on Twitter using @TheHiveInCC to help us stay connected and build community digitally. There will also be many other opportunities for us to build community connections remotely throughout the year through Family Forums, PTO sponsored events, and grade level based activities.

You will be receiving a communication from your child's teacher in the coming days with more information about how to log on for the first day of school. We are planning and preparing for a smooth transition but expecting some bumps and glitches along the way that we will respond to and handle with flexibility and patience.

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures for First to Return Students

Arrival Procedure for Students In Person

There are three main entrances for students and staff to use when arriving at the building or entering from scheduled outdoor time. **Students who are attending school in person must arrive to their assigned entrance every morning**

- Stedman Street: Grade 1 and Grade 2 students
- Main Entrance on Harvard Street: Grades 3-8 students

Students will be required to use hand sanitizer when they enter the building through their designated entrance at a hand sanitizing station right at the entrance.

- Staff will be staggered throughout the hallways and at each entrance to ensure students remain at safe distances and follow hallway guidelines

Dismissal Procedure for Students in Person

We will be using the side exit doors for students and staff when leaving the building.

- Students will exit the building each day using the following doors
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All in person students in grades 1 and 2 will be walked out to designated areas and are dismissed to their caregivers. All adults and caregivers who arrive to the building to pick up students must remain behind the designated line 6 feet away from the assigned student/teacher outdoor area.

Students in Grades 3-8 will be dismissed from their designated learning spaces to their assigned door and exit the building.

Caregivers may not approach the designated pick up area outside containing students and staff.

What to Bring to School Each Day for Students In Person

- a mask and 1 or 2 extra masks
- a water bottle
- a backpack large enough to fit your child(ren)'s snack and lunch bag
- a snack and lunch that your child(ren) can manage with as much independence as possible

I know there is a lot of information here and that there will be many questions that you have after reading through all these communications. I will be holding a **Family Family Forum on Monday, September 14th** at 8:00pm to help review information and address any of your questions.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84678167977?pwd=UkpXU1FETVp5RGUrUFZvUVRjb1prQT09>

Meeting ID: 846 7816 7977

Passcode: Together

We are so excited to welcome your child(ren) to the beginning of the school year next week.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon!

Jen