

Principal Gregory T. Fries, Ed.D.

4355 Dunham Drive Reading, PA 19606-8558 **Phone** 610.779.7640 **Fax** 610.779.6995

March 10, 2021

Dear Reiffton Families,

This has certainly been an interesting year! When we look back on this school year we will reflect on the fact that this year has been divided up into thirds. The start of the school year had all students attending virtually for the first marking period completing synchronous and asynchronous work. For the second and third quarter, students either attended school virtually or in a hybrid format that included in-person instruction for 2 hours and 45 minutes. On Monday, March 15, students will be attending school for either a full virtual day or they will be coming back for in-person full-day instruction. At this time, we have over 75 students that are returning to the building from receiving full virtual instruction. Whether you have chosen to send your child to school for full virtual instruction or in-person instruction, we are extremely excited to continue to work with our students. As I have stated many times this year, our number one concern is always the health and safety of our students and staff.

If your child will be returning from virtual instruction to receiving instruction in the building, we will make sure that they get to their classroom and find their teacher. Like we did in November, we are going to use a color system to help students find their room. Students will be greeted as they get off of the school bus and staff members will be helping them find their classrooms.

- Sixth grade is located on the left side of the building and fifth grade is located on the right side of the building.
- Fifth grade students on **Team B** (Mrs. Schaeffer and Mr. Wolfe) will follow the "**GREEN** arrows" to the <u>upper</u> fifth grade commons area to find their teacher.
- Because we have so many fifth grade students returning to the building, there was a need to open up an additional section of fifth grade that will be taught by Mr. Steve Dibler. Mr. Dibler will meet his students in the upstairs fifth grade commons and will then walk his class over to his room on the upstairs sixth grade side. Students in Mr. Dibler's homeroom will also follow the "GREEN arrows".

- Fifth grade students on **Team A** (Ms. Coe, Mrs. Kardos, and Mrs. Gilham) and **Team C** (Mrs. Zielinski, Mr. Schaeffer, and Mr. McCracken) will follow the "YELLOW arrows" downstairs to the fifth grade commons to locate their teacher.
- All fifth grade teachers will be holding up signs with their names on them so their students can see them.
- Sixth grade students on **Team D** (Mrs. Woolsey and Mr. Spraut) will follow the "BLUE arrows" to the upper sixth grade commons.
- Sixth graders on Team E (Mrs. Bagoly, Mrs. Barton, Mrs. Karich, and Mr. Hoelscher) and Team F (Mrs. Dewire and Ms. Wentling) will follow the "RED arrows" downstairs to the sixth grade commons.

There will be teachers in all of the hallways assisting students that are unsure of their teacher's name. Prior to the end of the school day, teachers will review where the school buses are located so that each student understands where they can find their bus. If your child is coming into the building for the first time this year, please check Skyward for transportation. Busing information can be found in Skyward under Portfolio (on the left), in the middle of the page you will find transportation information. Please review this information with your child prior to March 15th. Staff members will be around to help all students so no one has to worry about getting "lost" in their new building.

Doors will open each day at **8:00 AM and close at 8:05 AM**. Any students coming in after **8:05 AM** will be considered tardy. If you are dropping your child off in the morning, we ask that you wait until 7:55AM. Parents may park in visitor parking located in the front of the building and children may enter at 8:00 AM.

If you will be needing to pick up your child(ren) from school every day, or one or more days consistently each week, please complete the Reiffton School Commuter Registration form and submit it. This form has been updated so even if you have filled this form out already this year, we ask that you please fill it out again. Please park in visitor parking located in the front of the building. All families will be required to remain in the vehicle.

If a situation comes up and you need to pick up your child from school at dismissal, we require that you fill out this <u>"Commuter for the Day Note"</u> and send it into school with your child. "Commuter for the Day" families will park in a visitor parking spot and wait for their child to come out. Please remain in the vehicle at all times. Please <u>do not park</u> your vehicle and walk up to the office entrance to pick up your children at dismissal.

For health reasons, we are still not accepting visitors into the building. If you need to visit the school for any reason, please ring the bell and someone will greet you over the intercom. A secretary will meet you at the front doors to answer any questions that you

may have. If your child forgets something (book, chromebook, note, etc.) we will be happy to make sure that it is delivered to their classroom. We are doing our best to create an environment that is nurturing and safe while remaining within the guidelines of the District's Health and Safety Plan.

Students are reminded to bring their **charged** laptop to school each day. In addition students are asked to bring any of the books that they received at our Welcome Back car parade in August with them on March 15th.

Both in-person virtual instruction will look much different starting on Monday, March 15th. **The student day will run from 8:00AM to 3:05PM.** We will be using a 4-day cycle. Monday will be considered a Day 1. In person instruction and full virtual instruction will be very similar. We will no longer have asynchronous specials or asynchronous science/social studies. **All** students (in-person and virtual) will receive (**live**) 90-minutes of ELA, 70-minutes of Math, 30-minutes of RtII, 40-minute specials (art, music, P.E., and library), and a 70-minute science or social studies. The end of the school day will include time for First in Math (FiM), and remediation. We are also pleased to offer time for students to participate in band, chorus, and orchestra.

In-person and virtual students will have a 30-minute lunch and a 20-minute recess period. Teams C, D, and E will eat lunch in the cafeteria and students in Teams A, B, and F will eat lunch at tables in the gym. Students will be seated 6 feet apart from each other. All students will be sitting with their classrooms in assigned seats. Assigned seats are being used this year for contact tracing purposes. For those students that wish to get their lunch at school, they will have their choice of Option A (hot lunch) or Option B ("sandwich of the week"). Students will participate in a 20-minute recess period. For contact tracing purposes, students will go out to recess as a team, but they will be separated by homeroom. All students will be required to wash their hands before and after recess and will be able to use recess equipment (basketballs, footballs, jump rope, slides, etc.). Virtual students will take a 30-minute lunch and a 20-minute recess period when their team does.

We have been <u>extremely</u> impressed with how well our students have followed all of our safety measures. All students and staff are required to wear a face covering while at school. Face coverings are to cover the nose and the mouth. If a student comes to school without a face covering meeting these criteria, the student will be offered a disposable mask. Please be reminded to utilize the (Updated) <u>Symptom Monitoring Tool</u> each day. Information regarding Exeter's data is available on the <u>District Dashboard</u>.

If your child is absent from school please call the attendance line (610-779-7640, choose option 2). Attendance notes **must** be received within **3 days** of a child's

absence. Notes can be emailed to: rftattendance@exetersd.org . In your email, please include:

- YOUR CHILD'S FULL NAME, DATE OF ABSENCE, REASON FOR ABSENCE, AND PARENT FULL NAME.
- If a doctor's note is required due to the length of or accumulation of absences, you can attach a scanned copy to your email and have your child submit the original when he/she returns.
- Please note that emails will **only be accepted from the email address** you have provided **in your child's Skyward account**. Additionally, this email system is not to be used for student tardiness parent reporting.

We are no longer sending homework home with other students. All missed assignments can be found on Schoology or you can email the teacher directly.

I would like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding as we continue to adjust to in person and full virtual instruction during a pandemic. I assure you that whether your child is in our building or has chosen full virtual, they are <u>Reiffton students!</u> If you ever have any questions please feel free to reach out to me. I would be happy to speak with you. I can be reached at 610-779-7640, extension 7006 or at gtfries@exetersd.org.

Stay healthy,	
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Dr. Fries