

Frequently Asked Questions

How is Ridgewood keeping in-person students safe?

Per the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health, we are REQUIRED to follow ALL of these guidelines:

- Require use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including face coverings;
- Prohibit more than 50 individuals from gathering in one space;
- Require social distancing of 6 feet to be observed, as much as possible;
- Require that schools conduct symptom screenings and temperature checks or require that individuals self-certify that they are free of symptoms before entering school buildings; and
- Require an increase in schoolwide cleaning and disinfection.

These are NOT optional. We know it is not ideal and we look forward to the day when we can have all of our students return, safely, to the building.

In addition to the above, we have also taken the following safety measures:

- Instituted a daily health-screening process for all in-person students using infrared thermal temperature scanners
- Increased monitoring of hallways and restrooms by staff members
- Assigned students to seats in both classrooms and study hall areas
- We have electronic check-in and check-outs to help track student movement
- Only two students are allowed in the bathrooms at a time
- Created one-way traffic in the halls and stairways to maintain social distancing.
- Teachers will disinfect seats, keyboards, and materials between classes.
- Hand sanitizer stations throughout school
- Socially-distanced work spaces for students in classrooms and common areas
- Increased outdoor air circulation flow into the ventilation system
- Partitions for faculty and staff

What entrance do students use?

- Students will enter the building by the auditorium to be health-screened (Door #4 - White Tent).
- Students are expected to use the nearest exit after their last class.

What do I do if my child is sick or tests positive for COVID-19?

- If your student is sick and is supposed to be in the building that day, please contact the attendance office at (708) 456-4242 x1258 or email Christine Olivo (colivo@ridgenet.org).
- If your student tests positive for COVID-19 or exhibits COVID-related symptoms, please contact Candace Reid, the school nurse, immediately at 708-456-4242 ext. 1268

What is a hybrid schedule?

- A hybrid schedule is one that combines both remote and in-person instruction. In our schedule, students will be participating in in-person classes from 8AM-12:15PM Tuesdays through Fridays, with remote advisory and office hours from 1:15PM-3:15PM. Mondays will remain completely remote for all students (if this changes, families will be notified). For more detailed information regarding our hybrid schedule, visit [Back-to-School Plan 2020-2021](#)

Does my student come to school twice a week for his classes?

- Students will come in twice a week for morning classes 8:00-12:15. Students with the last name A-L on Tuesday and Wednesday. Students with the last name M-Z on Thursday and Friday. If you would like to select the option for your student to be full remote please contact the Dean, David Hawk (dhawk@ridgenet.org)

Where do students go during their scheduled lunch period?

- Students with 4th lunch will have early release on Tue/Thur 11:10 (unless in intervention)
- Students with 5th lunch will have late start Wed/Fri 9:05 (unless in interventions)
- Students with 6th lunch will be assigned a study hall in the cafeteria/collaboration center / wrestling room Wed/Fri.

Will in-person students have to be on zoom?

- In-person students may use zoom during parts of the class, but the focus will be on direct, in-person communication between the teacher and student.

How will my student schedule office hours?

- Students will schedule office hours on Monday for the remainder of that week during advisory using Flex-Time Manager. Students will have access to their office hour schedule. Teachers can schedule students into office hours, and students can also schedule themselves for extra help. If students want to add office hours after Monday they can on their own using flex-time manager. Office hours must be scheduled by 6:00pm the night before.
- Students are expected to communicate their office hours schedule with their family.

Who should I contact if I do not want my student coming into the building?

- All students have the option to request full remote learning.
- If you are electing to have your student participate in full remote learning, please contact David Hawk at dhawk@ridgenet.org or 708-456-4242 ext. 1242
- If your student is scheduled to come into the building on a specific day and you do not want them in the building that day, please contact the attendance office at (708) 456-4242 x1258 or email Christine Olivo (colivo@ridgenet.org).

What if we do not have internet access at home or my student is having technology issues?

- Please contact technology@ridgenet.org or call 708-456-4242 ext. 1357

Where can my student find the link to attend remote classes and Advisory?

- The zoom links for classes can be found in Canvas for each class.
- It is recommended that students check in 2 minutes early so classes can start on time.

How will grades and attendance be handled?

- Attendance will be taken daily by teachers during their scheduled classes in Skyward.
- Attendance will be taken daily by advisors during the Advisory period (1:15PM - 1:40PM Tuesdays-Fridays, and from 12:30PM - 12:55PM on Mondays) in Skyward.
- All absences, unless excused by a parent or guardian, will be considered unexcused.
- Ridgewood High School will be returning to its regular policies and practices for grading from prior to COVID. For more information, please see the Parent-Student Handbook.
- If your student will be absent from either in-person or remote classes, contact the attendance office 708-697-5558 on the same day.

What if my student doesn't want to attend their hybrid learning sessions?

- Students are expected to attend all classes and advisory in-person or on zoom.
- Their absence will be considered unexcused unless they are excused by a parent or guardian who calls the attendance office at (708) 456-4242 x1258 or email Christine Olivo (colivo@ridgenet.org).
- The Dean of Students may recommend interventions for attendance issues as appropriate.
- If you feel your child is not attending classes due to a social or emotional need, contact Student Services:

<p><u>Freshman</u> Social Worker- Justyna Kapustka * Freshman are assigned individual advisors; any concerns about Freshman Programming can be directed to the Division Head of Student Services</p>	<p><u>Sophomore</u> Social Worker- Jennifer Snyder * Sophomores are assigned individual advisors; any concerns about Sophomore Programming can be directed to the Division Head of Student Services</p>
<p><u>Junior</u> Counselor Last Names A-L: James Gyori Counselor Last Names M-Z: Cari Franz Social Worker: Jennifer Snyder</p>	<p><u>Senior</u> Counselor Last Names A-L: James Gyori Counselor Last Names M-Z: Cari Franz Social Worker: Katheen Leynes</p>

Do students, parents, teachers, and visitors coming into the building have to wear a mask?

- Yes, per the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), all individuals are REQUIRED to wear a mask, covering their nose and mouth, for the entire time they are on school grounds.
- Gaitors are not allowed per the IDPH.
- Students who do not follow these guidelines will be referred to the Dean of Students.

Will the school provide masks to wear?

- In the event a student forgets their mask at home or arrives at school without one, the school will provide a mask (pending they are allowed to enter the building per the student screening process).
- ** The school is not equipped to provide a mask to each student daily. Students are expected to arrive at school with a personal mask. School-provided masks should only be used if the student forgets theirs. **

What if a student takes off their mask when in the school building?

- If a student takes their mask off while in the school building, they will be asked to put it back on by a staff member. Staff members will do their best to ask in a way that respects the student and does not draw attention to the matter.
- If a student does not comply with a staff member's request to put their mask back on, the Dean of Students will be notified and will meet with the student in an attempt to reconcile the matter.
- If the student is still unwilling to put their mask back on after speaking with the Dean of Students, the student's parent or guardian will be contacted and told that the student must leave the building for not complying with health and safety protocols in place.
- ** If the student has a medical exemption from wearing a mask, written by a licensed health professional, it must be provided to the School Nurse. Any students without medical exemption removing their mask while in the building will be subject to the process described above. **

Will students be able to use their school or gym locker?

- No, the ISBE and IDPH have provided guidance to schools stating that students should not have access to lockers to maintain social distancing. Personal belongings that students bring to school will remain with them.

Does the school provide meals for students during the hybrid schedule?

- Meals will be provided to Ridgewood free and reduced lunch students. More information on meal pick up to follow.

When will students be able to go back to the regular school day?

- When the State of Illinois moves into Phase 5.

What will athletics and activities look like this school year?

- All of the activity advisors have been preparing to meet either in person, remotely, or a combination of the two. The times and locations of future meetings will be distributed electronically by the Ridgewood Athletic & Activity Department. Individual advisors will also share information about their club meetings as well.

- Athletic decisions are determined by regulations from the IHSA and IDPH. Communication will come from the Athletic Director, Rob St. John, as new information is available. Please contact Rob St. John with any questions at rstjohn@ridgenet.org or at 708-456-4242 ext. 1240