

# Northern Rush County Schools Inc.

## 2020 Re-Opening Plan

For

Mays Community Academy

and

Lil' Tigers Preschool

### **Calendar**

The NRCS 2020-2021 School Year will begin on August 10, 2020. This will be the first student day for all grade levels. NRCS will continue to monitor guidance from the Indiana Governor's Office and adjust the school calendar if needed.

### **Instruction**

NRCS will offer families two choices of instruction:

1. In-person instruction of students in the building 5 days per week.
2. Virtual options for those students who are not able to return to school in person.

*If you would like to discuss our virtual options, please contact Principal Shannon New.*

### **Additional Health and Safety Accommodations**

**MASKS:** NRCS recommends the use of masks, however masks will NOT be required for students or staff. This will be an individual choice left to parents and staff members. There will be no tolerance for any kind of shaming/bullying for your individual choice of wearing or not wearing a mask. Parents will provide the student's mask and ensure that it is cleaned and sanitized each day.

**SOCIAL DISTANCING:** NRCS will encourage social distancing whenever possible. Modifications will be made on an as-needed basis to the learning environment.

**WATER FOUNTAINS/WATER BOTTLES/CAFETERIA:** Water fountains will be restricted to supervised filling of disposable cups or student water bottles. Students are responsible for bringing their own water bottle. The cafeteria will serve normal hot meals in the cafeteria; students will not be eating in their classrooms. Students will receive their normal snacks in their classroom. There will be no “sharing table” in the cafeteria this year. Cafeteria staff will wear masks and gloves while preparing and serving food.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Students will have assigned seats. Buses will be thoroughly sanitized after each route, morning and afternoon. Bus windows will be open as weather allows, to facilitate the movement of fresh air. Parents may transport students to and from school if you do not want your child to ride the bus.

**IMMUNIZATIONS:** All students are required to have their immunizations or waiver completed by the start of school.

**PREVENTATIVE MEASURES:** Additional restroom breaks and handwashing will be implemented. The custodial crew will be sanitizing the building multiple times throughout the day. The building will be additionally sanitized overnight when staff and students are not present in the building. The air handling systems in the building will have enhanced filter changes. Teachers are encouraged to take their students outside as much as possible while working on lessons.

**DAILY STUDENT HEALTH SCREENINGS:** Students will have their temperature checked as they enter the building each morning. If a student has a fever of 100.4 or higher, the student will be placed in a designated room away from other students, and parents will be called to pick up the child. Please understand that we will need you to pick up your child within 60 minutes of being called.

**VISITORS:** Visitors will be allowed into the building at the sole discretion of the Principal. Visitors will be screened and temperature-checked in the main office prior to being allowed to enter the main building.

**HEALTH PROTOCOLS:** If your child is presenting symptoms of COVID-19 or OTHER ILLNESS, DO NOT SEND THEM TO SCHOOL.

**SYMPTOMS INCLUDE**

*A fever of 100.4 or greater*

*Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing*

*Persistent cough*

*Muscle pain*

*Repeated shaking with chills*

*Headache*

*Sore throat*

*New loss of taste or smell*

### **RETURN TO SCHOOL**

If your child has been exposed to someone or diagnosed with COVID-19, your child may not return to school until they satisfy the recommendations of the CDC and the Indiana State Board of Health. You will be notified of the current recommendations at the time of the incident. It is imperative that you notify the local health department immediately if there is a risk of exposure to COVID-19 and DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL.

### **WHAT WILL MY CHILD'S DAY BE LIKE?**

As has always been the case, your child's safety is paramount to us. Within the parameters laid out here, we want your child to experience as normal a school day as possible and to make your child's attendance at Mays Community Academy as typical and reliable as it has always been. We are ready to work with your family on any concerns you may have about your child's education experience and how it may affect your household – just ask!

We feel that “specials” remain an integral part of the students' experience. Art, music, Spanish, band, martial arts, and especially recess will remain in your child's schedule, but with extra attention to hand washing, social distancing and other protocols.

Please keep in mind that some elements of the school experience continue to be in a state of adjustment. For instance, our field experiences will no longer include such large, indoor venues as The Children's Museum. However, we hope to maintain the ability to take individual classes to local sites such as the Rush County Historical Society or the Huddleston Farm House, or to outdoor venues like apple orchards. If you have any suggestions for field experiences, please let Principal New know, so we can review all options. And as always, if you are not comfortable with your child taking a field experience, they will not be required to attend.

### **STATE CLOSES SCHOOLS DUE TO COVID-19**

Please understand that if the State of Indiana opts to take the emergency step of closing public schools, we will be required to follow that mandate. Our teachers and school leadership have worked hard to have a robust e-learning program in place so that your child will continue to receive the grade-level education they need in order to make the appropriate progress.

**FINALLY**

Our motto at Mays Community Academy has always been “Your Children, Our Priority,” and that remains true today. Providing your family with options to meet your child’s needs and accommodate your circumstances will always be our goal.