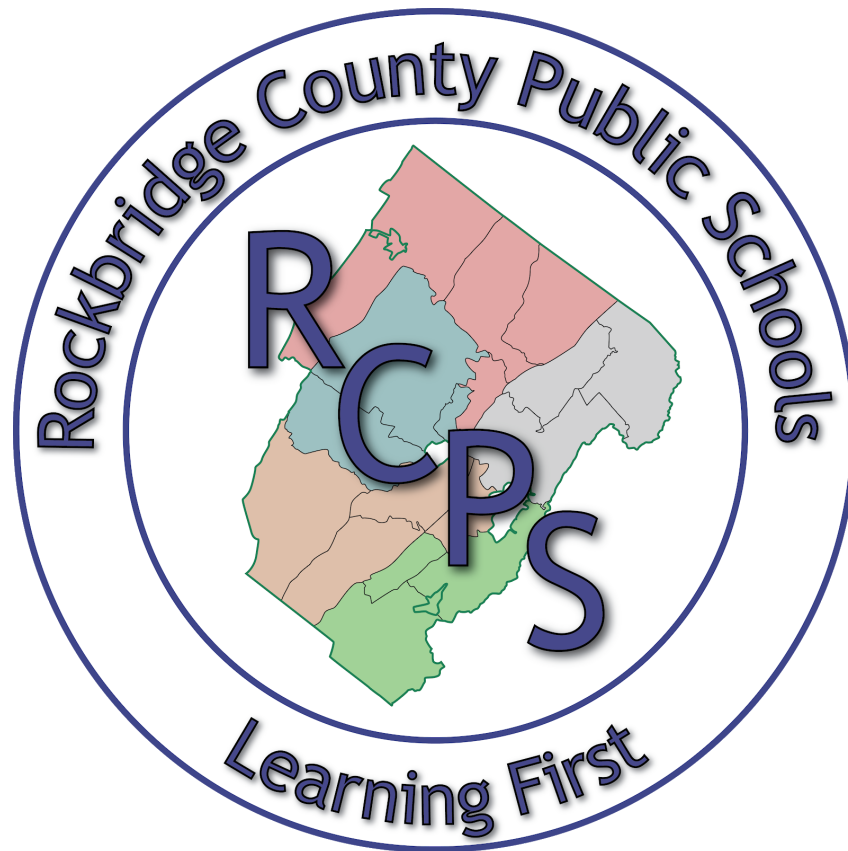


Rockbridge County Public Schools
Digital Learning Plan
August 2020



Overview

The 2020-2021 school year will be one of the most challenging that public educators have ever experienced. The “norm” for a school year will significantly change for communities, teachers, administrators, parents, and most importantly learners. The traditional instructional day will now be delivered in a fully digital format.

In order to properly prepare our teachers and staff for this unique and challenging experience, the Rockbridge County School Board approved an amended 2020-2021 school calendar. The amended school calendar introduces twenty (20) professional development days prior to the first day of school on September 8, 2020. These essential days are critical as all educators will have expansive opportunities to learn, collaborate, and reflect on innovative best practices. The targeted professional development plan serves as a guide for our teachers. Teachers will experience a series of robust and purposeful training sessions that will support and advance their mission to be agile teachers during these extraordinary times.

While this school year will be unconventional, it does provide educators with the opportunity to grow both professionally and instructionally. Fundamentally, the delivery of instruction will be reimagined and refined. As a result, lesson plans will read differently. Even though we will be leaning heavily on digital/virtual teaching, it must be understood that teachers have an obligation to afford students exceptional learning opportunities. They deserve our best!

Teaching and learning remain one of our top priorities, therefore, the mental health of students and staff members is of utmost importance. During this challenging time, we recognize that many teachers may struggle as they encounter many new tasks and responsibilities. We will not only focus on delivering high quality instruction, but also take into consideration the social and emotional needs of our learners. School counselors must be readily available to assist the evolving needs of all learners as they adapt to the digital learning platforms and cope with students’ elevated social and emotional needs.

In the following pages, you will discover a framework of digital learning plans for high, middle, and elementary schools. There is some variance between elementary and secondary school digital learning plans. All elementary schools will follow the same digital learning plans to ensure equity, equality, and consistency across the school division. Please note that the following digital learning plans are fluid. Depending on certain circumstances and outcomes they will continually be evaluated, modified, and enhanced.

Rockbridge County High School / Maury River Middle School

All core and elective classes noted in the RCHS/MRMS Program of Studies will be offered as planned.

In order to meet the digital learning needs of all students at RCHS/MRMS, each student will be issued a Chromebook. This device will allow learners who have an internet connection to access their work via the internet. In the event a student does not have an internet connection, free internet access is available at all six RCPS school parking lots in addition to Central Office (Formerly Effinger Elementary School). Students can use these locations or any public “Wifi” connection to upload and download all necessary work via Google. In the rare event that we have a student who has absolutely no access to an internet connection, RCPS will provide a thumb/flash drive in order to deliver assignments and assessments.

There will be a *Help Desk* available for parents to contact via email if there are any technology challenges accessing content. Teachers will make weekly connections and offer feedback to their students to ensure routine communication and ample support is leading to a positive learning experience.

Lastly, teachers will provide daily pre-recorded digital lessons through Google Classroom, Edgenuity, and potentially other virtual learning platforms. All teachers will be readily available throughout the school day to provide instructional support and guidance to enhance teaching and learning. Learners will be able to request assistance from their teacher throughout the day which could come in the form of email, phone conference, Google Meet (individually or as a group), etc. Feedback will be provided to learners on a weekly basis to make sure they are comprehending the prescribed curriculum. In the event that a student does not have internet access, they can call their school and leave a message for their teachers. Teachers are required to contact their students without internet access a minimum of twice per week.

The delivery of content will be critical as our learners will not have any direct face to face time with their teachers. Teachers will be expected to have a daily recorded lesson available to their students via Google Classroom. If a teacher chooses to use Edgenuity as their platform they will need to “personalize” each module with a recorded video delivery instruction. No Edgenuity modules should be pushed out without being modified or enhanced. Learners should not be self-paced in the modules.

Elementary Schools and Preschool

In order to meet the needs of Rockbridge County Public Schools youngest learners, each student will be provided with a Chromebook or alternative device. This will allow learners who have internet availability to access their work via the internet. In the event a student does not have an internet connection, free internet access is available at all six RCPS school parking lots in addition to Central Office (Formerly Effinger Elementary School). Students can use these locations or any public “Wifi” connection to upload and download all necessary work via Google. In the rare event that we have a learner who has absolutely no access to an internet connection, RCPS will provide a thumb/flash drive in order to deliver assignments and assessments.

There will also be a help desk available for parents to contact via email if there are any technology challenges with the student device. Teachers will provide weekly feedback to each digital learner to ensure that they are receiving the necessary support for an authentic learning experience.

Teachers will provide daily lessons through Google Classroom to ensure student learning. All teachers will be available throughout the school day. Feedback will be provided to learners on a weekly basis to make sure they are comprehending the written and taught curriculum. Teachers will make contact in a digital format or a phone call twice per week.

The delivery of content will be critical as our 2nd-5th grade learners will not have any direct face to face time with their teachers. Teachers will be expected to have a daily recorded lesson available to their students via Google Classroom. A daily lesson should be created for each facet of the written and taught curriculum.

Learners in grades preschool through first grade will attend school four days per week. Wednesday will be a full virtual day. While learners are in attendance they will have access to the entire curriculum associated with their grade level. Teacher assistants will also be readily available to support teaching and learning. Social distancing measures will be in place throughout the school day to ensure a safe environment for learners, teachers, and staff. Students in preschool through first will still have the option to participate in a digital format. Parents are required to make a semester commitment to digital learning if they so choose. For any learner in preschool through first grade in a virtual format videos of teachers delivered through Google Classroom will be the primary form of instruction.

Creating Equity K-12

Creating an equitable environment for all learners in a digital environment possesses its challenges. With no face to face contact students with unique learning needs will need to be provided an equitable opportunity to access the written and taught curriculum. Learners identified as a student with a disability will be able to attend school four days a week with Wednesday being a digital learning day. The same opportunity will be available for English Learners who are identified at a Monitor 1 level or lower. Case managers and services providers in conjunction with general education teachers will provide a “typical” school day for the identified learners. Time should be clearly focused on student IEP goals and accessing the appropriate curriculum. Transportation, lunch, and specials will be available to the learners attending school in this format.