



October 21, 2020

Dear Ridgewood School Community,

During Monday's Board of Education meeting, Stacie Poelstra presented the data collected from our most recent parent, staff, and student surveys, which were designed to give stakeholders the opportunity to provide feedback on the Phase 1 experience and input that will help inform the next steps in our reopening process. As you are aware, there was no statewide plan for the reopening of schools or direction on how to proceed once open; therefore, each district was responsible for developing an individualized plan that would meet the health and safety guidelines while providing both hybrid and remote instructional models, a charge never before confronted in public education. Our plan, which is subject to change based on current health data, is continuously evaluated and adjusted when appropriate, as we strive to provide the best educational program for our students.

One of the driving factors in the development and continuation of the reopening plan is current health data. Individual municipalities have different departments of health; for example, the Bergen County Department of Health Services serves about 35 municipalities. In Ridgewood, we are fortunate to have our own independent health department that is very attentive and helpful to the schools. We consult with our school physician, Village Health Department, and other health practitioners who have volunteered their time and expertise in our deliberations and planning.

Over the past four weeks, we have witnessed an unsettling trend in COVID-19 activity both within our county and throughout the state. The latest New Jersey Department of Health COVID-19 Activity Level Report indicates that all regions of the state have reached the moderate level, which poses a significant concern, especially as we move into a busy holiday season. Furthermore, research is now being reported that demonstrates that the virus does linger in the air and move beyond the six feet of social distancing when PPE is not worn.

When evaluating the current situation as part of the process for developing a safe and sound plan for Phase 2, the following factors raise concerns about providing lunch in school, which is a significant operational component of extending the school day.

- The COVID-19 infection rate is on the rise throughout the county and the state.
- Surrounding districts have experienced shutdowns due to positive cases.
- According to the health professionals we consult, travel for the upcoming holidays poses an increased risk for K-12 schools.
- The evolving research on the spread of the virus shows that, without PPE, there is a greater risk of infection, which gives cause for concern about having lunch in school.



Therefore, we will delay extending the in-person instructional day at our schools until after the start of the new year but continue to improve what we are doing within the current schedule. Attached you will find the rotating A-K/L-Z schedule through December. I understand COVID fatigue and childcare issues, but I am making this health decision for the students and employees of the district.

Please wear masks and social distance on school property, even after school hours. Thank you for helping keep our community safe!

Sincerely,

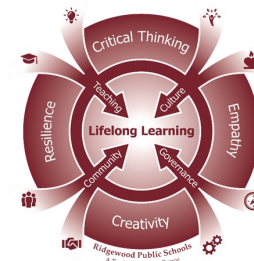
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Fishbein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "D" and "F".

Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

C Board of Education

Ridgewood Public Schools

Hybrid Model Schedule



October 2020

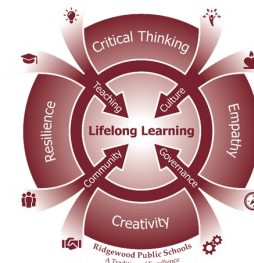
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 L - Z	2 A - K	3
4	5 L - Z	6 A - K	7 L - Z	8 A - K	9 L - Z	10
11	12 Columbus Day	13 A - K	14 L - Z	15 A - K	16 L - Z	17
18	19 A - K	20 L - Z	21 A - K	22 L - Z	23 A - K	24
25	26 L - Z	27 A - K	28 L - Z	29 A - K	30 L - Z	31

November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 A - K	3 PD/No School	4 L - Z	5 NJEA /No School	6 NJEA /No School	7
8	9 A - K	10 L - Z	11 A - K	12 L - Z	13 A - K	14
15	16 L - Z	17 A - K	18 L - Z	19 A - K	20 L - Z	21
22	23 A - K	24 L - Z	25 A - K	26 Recess	27 Recess	28
29	30 L - Z					

Ridgewood Public Schools

Hybrid Model Schedule



December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 A - K	2 L - Z	3 A - K	4 L - Z	5
6	7 A - K	8 L - Z	9 A - K	10 L - Z	11 A - K	12
13	14 L - Z	15 A - K	16 L - Z	17 A - K	18 L - Z	19
20	21 A - K	22 L - Z	23 A - K	24 Recess	25 Recess	26
27	28 Recess	29 Recess	30 Recess	31 Recess		