



Principal Back to School Message

Welcome to the 2020-21 school year! All of us at Riverview look forward to seeing all of you! I know that this summer has been filled with uncertainty as we all awaited to hear plans about re-opening from our district. **The first day for 1st - 5th graders is September 8 and the first day for PreK and Kindergarten is September 10.**

As you know, Saint Paul Public Schools has decided to begin the year with distance learning from home. While many of us may be eager to return to in person learning, we remain committed to the safety of our school community. You can be assured that my focus at this time is to ensure that distance learning improves for all students. I want to thank all the families that provided feedback through family surveys and family meetings. We were able to make some changes in response to that input and will continue to seek out your perspectives for ongoing improvement.

We look forward to seeing you virtually to start the school year, and hopefully in person later this year if the pandemic is in better control. I will be sending more details about our plans in the coming weeks and will host a virtual family meeting on Monday, August 24 to share updates and answer any questions that you may have about the first few weeks of school. The links for the meeting are available as follows:
English option at 6:00p: meet.google.com/cyb-anpb-jpn.
Spanish option at 7:00p: meet.google.com/jwf-qfnw-wpv.

In this letter, you'll find a few things to know so you and your child can prepare. As always, I thank you for trusting in Riverview. It is my belief that our work in educating our children is done in partnership with families and community. Please remember that I am here to serve you and your family and don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions, concerns, ideas or celebrations you have about our school! I look forward to welcoming you and your family to the new school year!

Sincerely,
Nancy D. Páez, Principal
Riverview West Side School of Excellence

Family Checklist

Please view and use this technology checklist as a guide to make sure you are ready for the first day of school. This checklist is available at spps.org/fallchecklist.

Important Dates

Monday, August 24

Family Information Meeting (virtual)

English 6:00p: meet.google.com/cyb-anpb-jpn

Spanish 7:00p: meet.google.com/jwf-qfnw-wpv

Tuesday, September 8

First day of school for 1st-5th grade students

September 8-9

PreK and Kindergarten Parent-Teacher Conferences

Thursday, September 10

First day of school for PreK and Kindergarten students

Riverview School Calendar

A copy of our calendar is posted online at spps.org/riverview. For the full district calendar, visit spps.org/calendar.

Important Websites

You can find more detailed information and district updates about the new school year:

- spps.org/riverview
- spps.org/reopen2020
- spps.org/distancelearning
- spps.org/virtualllearning
- spps.org/backtoschool



BACK TO SCHOOL

► School Hours & Daily Schedules

We are following our school's regular start and end times, regardless of whether students are in distance learning, hybrid or in-person learning scenarios. School begins at 9:30 am and ends at 4:00 pm.

Morning PreK hours are 9:30 - 12:00 pm. Afternoon PreK hours are 1:30 - 4:00 pm. We are working with teachers to finalize plans for the daily schedules. More information will be shared with you before the start of school.

► Meals

Nutrition Services will continue to provide weekly meal boxes through home meal delivery and curbside pickup during distance learning. All students eligible for free or reduced-price meals will receive meals at no cost.

Every SPPS family should complete an application for Education Benefits/Free or Reduced Price Meals -- regardless of family income. Not only does this help us identify families in need of assistance, it also allows SPPS to receive federal dollars for classroom programming. Applications are available online on schoolcafe.com/spps, and paper applications were mailed to homes in August.

► Riverview Programs & Community Programs

- Extended Day Learning (EDL) will not be offered through distance learning.
- The Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies (GTCYS) violin and cello lessons will run their own program due to distance learning. They plan to offer in-person lessons at their own location. Returning students and new 3rd graders will receive information directly from GTCYS soon.
- El Rio Rec Check: 651-789-3692 or stpaul.gov/facilities/el-rio-vista-recreation-center.
- West Side Boys and Girls Club - 651-222-2212 or sprocketssaintpaul.org/program-finder/boys-girls-club-al-lenzmeier-west-side-club.

SPPS Childcare

SPPS Community Education will offer two childcare options for families this fall while students are in distance learning. Both programs are open to enrolled elementary age students and will be staffed by non-licensed childcare staff. Children will remain with the same small group each day. Masks will be required for all students and staff, and Minnesota Department of Health guidelines for childcare programs will be strictly enforced.

- Essential Kids Care will operate at three sites this fall for children of Tier 1 essential workers. Care is free during normal school hours, and transportation is available. For more information: spps.org/ekidscare
- Discovery Club will be available at four sites this fall for PreK-5th graders. The fee-based program does not include transportation. For more information: spps.org/discoveryclub

A portion of the day will be set aside for students to work on their independent learning, and the remainder of the time will include enrichment and physical activity. Breakfast and lunch are also provided. For questions, please contact Discovery Club at discovery.club@spps.org or call 651-632-3793.



BACK TO SCHOOL

► Distance Learning 2.0

- All PreK-12 students will be issued an iPad.
- Distance Learning 2.0 will be a balance between “any time” (asynchronous) and “same-time” (synchronous) learning
- Students will receive daily “same-time” (synchronous) instruction from their teachers
- There will be daily student-to-student interaction
- Students will have access to enhanced WiFi options

To view more details about Distance Learning 2.0, visit spps.org/distancelearning. If you have questions that you cannot find answers to on our website, please call Riverview at 651-293-8665. You may also call the district Parent Help Line at 651-767-8347 or email family.engagement@spps.org for assistance.

► iPad Help

If your iPad is damaged or needs to be replaced, please report the issue by emailing or calling SPPS Technology Services:

- Email: familysupport@spps.org
- Call: 651-603-4348 from 7am – 4pm. Please leave a detailed voicemail and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

After a report is made, a member of the SPPS technology support team will contact you about replacement options. If you are having issues logging into Seesaw, Schoology or other district-approved apps, please see the information on spps.org/ipadhelp.

► Virtual Learning School

The SPPS Virtual Learning School is an option for all students who prefer to remain in 100% distance learning for the entire 2020-21 school year.

Students who enroll in the Virtual Learning School will begin the school year with their current class at Riverview.

Virtual Learning School students will stay enrolled at Riverview and classrooms until a transition is made to a hybrid model. In the Virtual Learning School, dual language immersion students will continue to receive immersion instruction. According to the district, immersion instruction for students in the Virtual Learning School may be at a reduced level compared to their hybrid or in-person peers. Learn more at spps.org/virtualllearning.

Health And Wellness

Immunizations

Even though SPPS students will start the year in distance learning, it's important to make sure your child's immunizations are current and provide records to your child's school.

COVID-19 Student and Family Guidelines

Please review the Saint Paul Public Schools [COVID-19 Guidance for Students and Families](#) in response to the everchanging Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

COVID Testing Resources

Visit the [Minnesota Department of Health website](#) to find a location providing free COVID-19 testing. Reminder: Check with your insurance provider before making an appointment to make sure the office visit fee will be covered.

Student Mental Health

We recognize that school closure, distance learning and COVID-19 may cause extra stress to many in our school community. Please visit [community resources](#) or contact Riverview.

Face Coverings in SPPS

Minnesota Governor Tim Walz has directed that masks or face coverings must be worn throughout Minnesota in all indoor public spaces - including school buildings. This new executive order applies to all visitors, staff and students (kindergarten and older). Pre-K students are not required to wear face coverings under this order.



BACK TO SCHOOL

► Back to School Event

We will host a virtual opportunity for students and families to meet their teacher, learn about distance learning and share their hopes for the school year. We are still finalizing plans. Please look for more details soon. Each student will receive a letter in the mail with information about their new teacher.

► School Supplies

School supplies are not requested from families to begin this year. If we return to in-person instruction, school supplies may be requested at that time. For now, every student will receive a “Learning Kit” before school begins, which will include materials and supplies needed to learn from home.

► iUpdate Information

You may have received district communication asking you to update your family information on iUpdate. The information is also provided at spps.org/onestop. Every family must complete the forms. If you need assistance completing the form, please leave a voicemail for Mr. Pierre Cejudo at 651-767-8194 and he will schedule a time with you to provide support.

► Let’s Stay Connected

Relationships and timely communication are more important than ever in a distance learning environment. You can expect to receive a monthly newsletter from Riverview, as well as weekly family updates. We use Blackboard Connect to inform families about important information, events, emergencies and more through email, phone and text. **Update your phone number, email and other contact information with our school clerk by calling 651-293-8665 or through Campus Portal at spps.org/onestop.**

You can also find up to date information on:

- The Riverview school website, spps.org/riverview
- Social media: [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)
- The MySPPS app; download the app and “Follow” Riverview

We look forward to welcoming you to the new school year, even if it looks very different this year! Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need to contact someone at the school.

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| • Riverview Main Line 651-293-8665 | • Principal, Nancy Páez 651-785-5181 |
| • Attendance Line 651-744-5993 | • Nurse 651-888-7660 |
| • Family Liaison, Diana Galavíz 651-744-1785 | • Bilingual support, Pierre Cejudo 651-767-8194 |